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Champion focus

Focus on Business Champions

RULING EXPECTED THIS WEEK IN ROW OVER TOWN-CENTRE PLANS

Report by **Henry James**

THE future of shopping in Skelmersdale town centre could be shaped this week as a decision is expected by a judge in the High Court where Concourse bosses have mounted a legal challenge against the rival St Modwen scheme.

Last year, chiefs at London & Cambridge Properties (LCP), which own the Concourse, had said they had no option but to seek legal redress to safeguard both the town centre and the shopping centre's future.

LCP bosses have challenged West Lancs Council's granting of planning consent to St Modwen for a competing scheme in the town centre.

St Modwen are proposing a scheme that includes shops which are already in the Concourse's retail space.

Under LCP's proposals, a 20,000 sq.ft. multi-screen Light cinema, along with two food outlets, would be located on the second floor of the shopping centre, while four existing units would be converted on the first floor to accommodate restaurants. It is planned as the first phase of the centre's transformation.

St Modwen's plans meanwhile are for a mixed use scheme incorporating around 100,000 sq ft of space. This will include 50,000 sq ft of retail to "widen the scope of choice" in the centre, as well as 50,000 sq ft of leisure such as a cinema, restaurants and bars to introduce a new night-time leisure opportunity and economy to the town. They say the scheme will bring 500 jobs to the town.

The High Court hearing has now finished and Mr Justice Jay will give a decision in writing, which is believed could be this week.

During the hearing an argument arose about one of the planning conditions imposed on the St Modwen scheme which was put in place by the council in June. This stated that major stores can't move to the St Modwen development within a year of being at the Concourse, unless they agree to being on both sites.

Concourse bosses say the condition is unenforceable and unlawful and they want the planning permission on the St Modwen development overturned.

At the High Court, LCP chiefs highlighted a council commissioned report from 2014 that showed the St Modwen scheme would have a negative effect on the Concourse..

During the hearings, council lawyers pointed out that the site for the St Modwen proposals would meet the need for regeneration in the town.

The Concourse shopping centre

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County cabinet calls for council tax increase

Leader warns more savings will be needed by 2020

LANCASHIRE County Council's cabinet has agreed to recommend a series of budget proposals to a meeting of the full council, which will be asked to approve them at its meeting on Thursday, February 11.

Cabinet also agreed to recommend to full council that council tax for 2016/17 be increased by 1.99% plus a 2% increase specifically for social care services.

The leader of the county council, County Councillor Jennifer Mein, said: "We face an unprecedented financial challenge as a result of relentless cuts in central government funding combined with a rising demand for our services, which means we have to take a number of extremely difficult decisions.

"One of those decisions is to recommend that council tax be increased by 1.99% plus a 2% increase for a social care precept, specifically encouraged by central government to go towards the increasing demand for social care.

"The reality is that the money provided by this increase will only go a small way to offsetting reductions in government funding.

"County councils came out worst in the recent local government finance settlement and we will see our government funding reduce by more than £300m over the next four years.

"In spite of previously identified savings and the £65m of savings in these budget proposals, even if these are agreed by full council we will still need to find a further £200m of savings by 2020.

"We also need to spend the council's useable reserves to balance the budget over the next two years and it is not clear at this point how we will be able to deliver even statutory services beyond that point."

Have you got what it takes to be a school governor?

IF you think you've got what it takes to be a school governor, Lancashire County Council would like to hear from you.

The authority is looking to recruit people from a diverse range of backgrounds to undertake this important role supporting the effective running of schools across the county.

School governors are volunteers who work together with the headteacher and the local authority to improve education and other outcomes for all pupils.

Potential governors must:

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Have time to spare to attend meetings and to read necessary papers.

Be ready to learn and open to new ideas.

Be willing to put something into your local community.

No formal qualifications are required and full training and support will be given to make sure people are fully equipped to carry out the role successfully.

Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Nikki Hennessy, who is also chair of Lancashire's governors panel, said: "Despite popular misconceptions, we want school governors from all walks of life. You don't need to be a parent or to have worked in education.

County Councillor Nikki Hennessy

"We are really interested in hearing from a broad range of people to gain from their wisdom and experience. We want our governors to reflect our Lancashire communities and include representatives with as many backgrounds as possible.

"Governors can make an enormous difference to the performance and attainment of a school. Whatever your background you could add enormous value to a local school."

To find out more, contact the Lancashire Governor Services Central Team on 01257 516147 or email governors.central@lancashire.gov.uk

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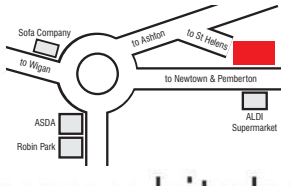

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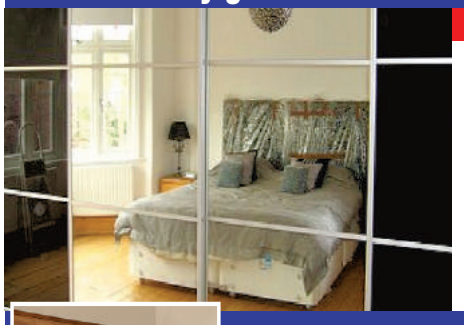

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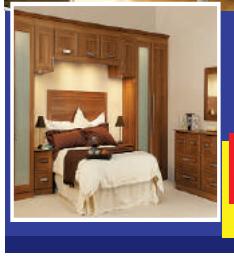

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The stolen drone

£100k raid at home

VEHICLES and property worth more than £100,000 were stolen from a house in Burscough Road, Ormskirk sometime between 12.40am and 4am on Sunday, January 24, when the offenders made off with a blue BMW M5, a grey Landrover Discovery and a white Volkswagen Crafter van.

Inside the van were two green-and-red striped racing go-karts and associated equipment, together with a black DGI flying drone.

The occupant of the property, including small children, were asleep upstairs at the time of the burglary.

The BMW has since been recovered from the Sandhills area of Liverpool and the VW van from Bootle.

However, the go-karts had been removed from the van and remain unaccounted for.

The Landrover, registration number MK14 XOC, has also not been located as yet.

DS Stephen Monk of Lancashire Police said: "This burglary has had a huge impact on the family concerned.

"Upon the incident being reported officers were quickly in the vicinity.

"The van has headed out of Ormksirk towards the Maghull area along the A59 and would have had extensive damage to the side and the rear lights.

"There were young children in the address at the time and I am urging anybody with any information regarding who is responsible or the whereabouts of the go-karts to contact us."

Anybody with information is urged to contact Lancashire Police on 101. Alternatively you can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Subsidised buses face the axe as county council implement cuts

Interview by **Henry James**

SUBSIDISED bus services in Skelmersdale and the borough as a whole face being axed or disrupted as a result of cuts being made by Lancashire County Council.

County Council bosses have proposed to withdraw subsidies to buses from April 2 as they have to make a cut in funding of £262m over the next five years.

The proposal will affect 15% of the bus network in Lancashire and the cost of subsidising these services is £6.8m a year.

Among the services which will stop in the borough, in their current form, include the 3A, 5 and 6 which are run by Holmeswood coaches.

Mark Atherton, operations manager at the company, said: "The services will be cut. We have looked into the viability of operating them on a commercial basis, but it is not viable in real terms."

The 3A stops at Ormskirk, Burscough, Skelmersdale, Parbold, Wrightington, hourly, on a Monday to Saturday.

Talking about the 3A, Gill Davies from Evington, Skelmersdale said: "Another bus service is to be axed due to the lack of funding by the Lancashire County Council.

"The service serves a wide range of passengers - the young, elderly, working-age, students, hospital out-patients and visitors.

"It has been a very good service. I use it at least four times a week from Skelmersdale to Parbold to visit my friends. Like many people I do not have a car or drive.

"People also use this bus to get to and from the local shopping centre.

"How are we meant to get out without this well-used and needed bus service?

"Having worked in Wrightington Hospital as a staff nurse for many years I used the bus to get to work, but time and time again the service was stopped.

"With no other means of transport available I had to take early retirement from a job I loved.

"Taking the bus service off is going to affect people getting to work once again. A young man I spoke to about the bus being axed said how am I going to get to work, I will have to leave.

"A young student said, 'how do I get to college?'

"Please Lancashire County Council think again about how this will affect the people of this borough.

County councillor John Fillis

"So much for wanting people to use public transport and to help the environment."

County Councillor John Fillis, cabinet member for highways and transport at Lancashire County Council, commented: "The county council has proposed to withdraw subsidies to buses from April 2 as a direct result of the Tory government's austerity measure, which will see a further cut in funding of £262m over the next five years.

"This decision will affect approximately 15% of the current bus network, 85% of bus services are not subsidised.

"The current cost of subsidising these services is £6.8m a year with the individual cost ranging from 34p to the highest being £12.31 per passenger

"The bus services 3A, 5 and 6 are a package contract the average subsidy is £1.38 per passenger journey. The cost to Lancashire Council Tax payers to maintain these services is £235,518 per year. However with passenger numbers of 171,000 we believe that the current or an alternative company will operate part if not all of the routes on a commercial base. Alternative providers have already expressed an interest in these services, but as yet no firm alternative proposals have been put forward."

Lancashire County Council has been out to consultation regarding the withdrawal of subsidies with the final decision being taken on February 11.

Historic West Lancs pub is back on market

The Buck I'th' Vine is up for sale

THE historic Buck I'th' Vine public house has gone up for sale for £550,000.

The owners are initially seeking expressions of interest in the Burscough Street pub on a freehold or leasehold basis, either as existing or on a turn key package from £49,500 per year on the property website Rightmove.

It is being sold with planning permission.

In June, the Champion revealed that plans had been submitted to convert the historic town-centre pub, parts of which date back to the 17th century, into a ground-floor pub and restaurant with student accommodation on two upper floors.

West Lancashire Borough Council granted planning permission for the plans for the former coachhouse.

The Grade-II listed building, which closed in 2014, could be re-opened featuring a traditional hostelry on the ground floor with residential accommodation, specifically targeted at Edge Hill University students, above. The derelict outbuildings at the rear of the property can be converted into a new restaurant.

The pub dates from the late-17th century while the rear outbuildings, including former stables, brew house and theatre, were added in the 18th and 19th centuries. Under the plans these would become the new restaurant. It is also proposed to fill in the existing covered, gated archway, which is not a public right of way, with glazing.

The pub changed hands in November 2014 after the freehold was reportedly being sold for more than the asking price of £325,000 by leisure property specialists Fleurets.

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The newly-opened Bluebell Lodge at Ormskirk Hospital will cater for patients in West Lancashire and Sefton

New ward aims to combat A&E delays

Report by **Ollie Cowan**

A NEW ward has opened at Ormskirk Hospital to provide extra beds for patients over the winter, as well as helping to ease the pressure on A&E.

Up to 22 patients can be accommodated at Bluebell Lodge in what was an unused ward.

Contractors worked round the clock on the £120,000 project to ensure it was ready for cleaning and furnishing just before Christmas.

Bluebell Lodge is for patients who are ready to go home from hospital at either Southport or Ormskirk but whose care package or other arrangements are not yet in place.

No patient will spend more than three days there and care will be led by nurses.

Simon Featherstone, director of nursing at Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals NHS Trust, said: "Like many hospitals we often have patients whose discharge is delayed because the continuing care they need isn't ready at home.

"These delays reduce our bed stock, slow the admission of new patients and put pressure on care in A&E.

"Bluebell Lodge is a key plank of our winter plan. It keeps patients ready for discharge safe and cared for while freeing up valuable medical beds for those who need them."

Simon added that everyone has a role in keeping hospital care for people who really need it.

"Coughs, colds, sore throats, upset stomachs, general aches and pains, and flu will usually clear up on their own.

"Keep warm, drink plenty of fluids and, if appropriate, treat with over-the-counter painkillers such as paracetamol."

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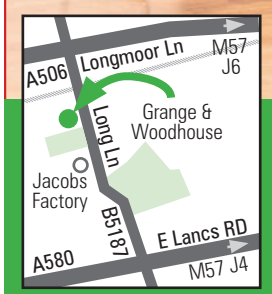

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New cemetery and crematorium for West Lancs to open in Burscough next month

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

'The opening of the new cemetery at Pippin Street will give families across West Lancashire the option to once again bury their loved ones close to home.'

A NEW CEMETERY and crematorium for West Lancashire will open in Burscough next month.

Construction work started on the Pippin Street development last summer and is now drawing to a close despite the poor weather.

The new facility will open on Monday, February 1 and already a number of families are said to be choosing to hold funerals there.

West Lancashire MP Rosie Cooper, said: "The welcome investment of the Westerleigh Group in the opening of a cemetery and crematorium will make a real difference to so many families here in West Lancashire.

"The opening of the new cemetery at Pippin Street will give families across West Lancashire the option to once again bury their loved ones close to home.

"It will bring to an end the days of families being forced to go outside of West Lancashire, which added emotional, financial and travel burdens to a family's loss."

Local clergy and funeral directors have been given a chance to preview the new service this week and also feel that it will provide a valuable new choice for the bereaved they look after.

Carl Howard of Howard Funeral services in Southport commented: "The Crematorium in Burscough is set in a tranquil environment and has absorbed its beauty in design and innovation.

"It will offer bereaved families a peaceful and sympathetic place to say a final farewell and the design fully understands the requirements that families have following their sad loss."

The 100 seat chapel has been fitted with large bay windows with long views over the countryside and the Ormskirk skyline.

A state-of-the-art digital music system has been fitted as well as a traditional organ and the chapel is able to cater for all religions and beliefs.

The countryside setting will be enhanced with extensive planting and landscaping once ground conditions improve with over 3000m2 of turf set to be laid in the next month.

More than 50 trees are also due to be planted with many hundreds of plants, shrubs and flowers.

The new manager, Paul Dobson, is keen to see this completed.

He said: "It is never easy to open in the mid-winter and this year's exceptional rain has caused some extra challenges but we plan to finish the final landscaping around the building as soon as we can.

"The building looks perfect though and is ready for our first funerals."

The crematorium will serve all communities from across West Lancashire.

Mum to pay for breast op with benefit money

Cheryl Prudham

A MOTHER of 12 from Skelmersdale is to pay for a £4,000 breast enlargement operation with her benefit money.

Cheryl Prudham has been saving up her benefit cheques, which are funded by taxpayers as she feels her breasts have become "saggy" since she gave birth to her 12th child last year.

The 33-year-old is to have the surgery done at Liverpool's MYA Cosmetic Surgery Clinic and it will take her breasts from a B cup to a 34D in a bid to follow the celebrity Katie Price.

A source told a national newspaper: "Cheryl can't wait to have her boobs done and wants them modelled on Katie's.

"She doesn't feel very sexy after 12 children and has always admired Katie for her lovely feminine figure.

"Cheryl has been joking she'll be the Katie Price of Skelmersdale and is delighted she's managed to get the op pretty much for free.

Last October, Ms Prudham was named Britain's Most Shameless Mum in a documentary on Channel 5.

The programme said the woman claimed almost £40,000 a year in benefits.

A month after having twins, Cheryl was pregnant with her 12th child. She and her husband, Robert, have had six children together.

Cheryl has six other children from her previous relationships and they are aged six to 15.

National newspapers have reported on how Cheryl spent £1,000 on a new pram. The annual income of the couple is reported to be £65,000 and it is believed that Robert is paid £19,200 as a delivery driver. As he works part-time they don't meet the benefits cap.

Dementia UK's Dr Julia Woolgar receiving the cheque from members of the 5th Ormskirk St Anne's group

Guides raise £200 for national dementia charity

GUIDES have raised £200 for a national dementia charity.

Members of the 5th Ormskirk St Anne's group raised £200 for Dementia UK by holding a Christmas Fair, selling home-made goods and cakes and hosting raffles and games.

Guide leader Jacqueline McDermott, said the Guides had decided to fundraise following a workshop on dementia awareness delivered by Dementia UK's Dr Julia Woolgar.

She said: "The Guides had been eager to learn about dementia and how they could support people living with the early stages. They chose Dementia UK as their nominated charity because of the practical help and support offered by Dementia UK's team of specially trained nurses."

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Community still seeking action to prevent flooding

By Danielle Thompson

Rosie Cooper with representatives from United Utilities, ARRCCHS members and local councillors at the meeting

MEMBERS of a community action group have held an emergency meeting with agencies and West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper to organise flood prevention measures in the future.

The ARRCCHS flood action group was formed in 2012 as a result of the floods in September that year, to represent residents in the Asmall Lane, Redgate Estate, Whiterails, Cottage Lane, Cotton Drive, Halsall Lane, Southport Road and surrounding areas in Ormskirk. The name is made up of the initials of the roads which were affected by the 2012 floods.

Members of the group invited representatives from United Utilities, West Lancs Council, Lancashire County Council and the Environment Agency to attend a meeting with Rosie Cooper MP following the recent floods when the area was again affected.

Unfortunately, the Envionment Agency and county council were unable to attend the meeting which was focused on developing a co-ordinated approach to flood defence going forward.

Rosie Cooper, who helped to form the groups, said: "ARRCCHS residents have been failed by the government and local agencies when it comes to flooding, as have so many other residents across West Lancashire.

"Flood action groups were supposed to be the gateway for residents to get help in better protecting their homes, access funding for flood prevention measures and for local agencies to tackle the infrastructure problems that contributed to the flooding of their homes.

"Residents have committed their time to attending these meetings for three years. They have committed substantial sums of their money to restore and try to protect their homes but three years on there is no meaningful progress.

"With their homes having flooded once again, Friday's meeting reflected the frustration and anger that residents are quite rightly feeling. They want action to better protect their homes - as they wanted three years ago - and it's what they need to stop the flooding and devastation of their homes happening again and again."

ARRCCHS will be hosting their next public meeting at Cottage Lane Mission, Ormskirk starting at 6pm tonight (Wednesday, January 27) with the opportunity for affected residents to meet one-to-one with representatives from the agencies immediately afterwards.

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Townsfolk come out fighting in support of boxing club

Report by **Henry James**

OFFICIALS at Birch Green Amateur Boxing Club say they have had offers of help from businesses in the town after their fundraising drive to raise £10,000 for essential repairs to their Heversham base was featured in The Champion last week but they are still appealing for townsfolk to support their fundraising events.

The club has been established for more than 20 years but its base in Heversham is badly in need of repairs and has a leaking roof.

Staff at the Co-op were among the first local businesses to pledge to help the club.

Boxing club secretary, Bobby Givnan, said: "The club is in desperate need of funds to have the roof repaired, there are leaks everywhere.

"We are in the process of planning fundraising events to help with this.

"One of the events that is already organised is a sponsored sky-dive by James Murray.

"James has a page set up on the Just Giving website and if anyone would like to donate to help us, just go to justgiving.com and put James Murray in the search box and you will see the link to click that will take you to the crowd funding page where you can donate.

"We are a totally voluntary club with people who really care about their community and the boxers, both juniors and seniors, love their club.

"We would be very grateful for any financial help and to those people who have already donated I'd like to say how we really appreciate it, thank you.

"We recently had a financial contribution from the Up Holland and Tawd Vale Lions, this was for much-needed new equipment, so everyone at the club would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank-you to them for their help."

Meanwhile, one of the young boxers, 10-year-old Kain Carrington is planning on doing a Three Peaks Challenge to raise funds.

He is hoping to raise £500 by climbing Scafell Pike, Ben Nevis and Snowdon in April.

Kain's dad, David has said he will match whatever the youngster collects and commented: "He is only 10 but he has lots of fundraising ideas. I am sure he will be able to do The Three Peak Challenge as he is a fit lad."

MEMBERS of Birch Green ABC mop up after rain came in through the leaking roof

The M58 at Skelmersdale

Skem to benefit from £100m cycling fund

SKELMERSDALE is set to benefit from a pot of £100m to help cyclists to travel across Junction 4 of the M58.

Highways England says it has begun work on 40 schemes, including the one at Skelmersdale, designed to make it safer for cyclists to cross motorway junctions and ride along major A roads.

The investment will include the building of new cycle lanes at the M58.

The works involve 200 separate cycling projects that the agency is delivering over the next five years under the government's Road Investment Strategy.

It says that the schemes will provide safe routes suitable for cyclists of all abilities and separated from motor traffic.

Andrew Jones, parliamentary under secretary of state at the Department for Transport, said: "Our investment in cycling infrastructure will make cycling safer and ultimately cut congestion on the roads.

"Highways England is well on the way to delivering £100m worth of improvements to cycling facilities around major roads over the next five years.

"This important work is part of a transformational programme to make travelling by bike a more attractive option – great news for cyclists and motorists.".

Richard Leonard, cycling champion at Highways England, said: "These improvements will make cycling easier around major A roads and over motorway junctions across England.

"They will contribute towards a connected, comfortable, attractive and high quality cycling network, suitable and safe for use by people of all ages and abilities.

"We want to provide safe, accessible and integrated cycling facilities that give people a genuine choice about whether to travel in their car to get on a bike instead.

"If we can encourage more people to use their bikes for local journeys then this should also improve the flow of traffic for drivers travelling longer distances."

News of work commencing on the projects follows the publication of Highways England's Cycling Strategy.

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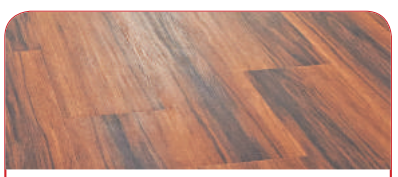

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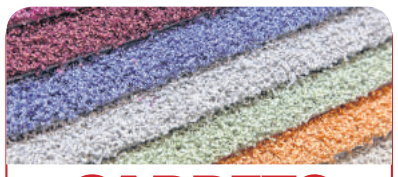

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Town to host second conference on Child Sexual Exploitation

Report by **Henry James**

Youth group awarded funding to stage event with partner agencies

COMMUNITY group Skelmersdale Action for Youth has received funding to hold a second Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) conference later this year.

The group received the money from the Duchy of Lancaster Benevolent Fund and the event will be run in partnership with various agencies, as well as local high schools and colleges.

The first CSE conference held last year was formally opened by Lancashire's police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw, and Detective Chief Inspector Jill Johnson.

It was attended by children and young people from high schools across the borough, along with representatives of criminal justice agencies, safeguarding agencies and young peoples' advocates groups.

As well as learning what constitutes child sexual exploitation, delegates were also told of the support available to those at risk and to those who have been victims.

The key message for the day was 'Sexual exploitation is not your fault.'

Alan Lewis from Skelmersdale Action for Youth (SAY) said: "We would like to thank the Duchy of Lancaster for their support which will allow us to run the forthcoming conference."

Meanwhile, the group has also been awarded a bursary fund grant by Young Lancashire to support a staff member's photography course.

The money will fund Phil Newby on the two-year course and he will be taking photos at SAY activities throughout the year, as well as a number of different youth events he is involved in.

Phil said: "I would like to thank Young Lancashire for the bursary funding and also Alan Lewis for his help in the application."

The aim of the fund is to help people develop and enhance their life skills.

BELOW: Phil Newby celebrates confirmation of his bursary with Alan Lewis of SAY.

Primary pupils get chance to sample campus life

Pupils try out the sports facilities at Edge Hill

PUPILS from St James' Catholic Primary School in Ashurst were invited to Edge Hill University by senior lecturer Claire Buck to work with undergraduates studying English and considering careers in teaching.

The visit gave the students the chance to try out strategies to inspire the children to be creative writers, while the youngsters took the opportunity to enjoy some of the university's new sports facilities.

St James' headteacher, Dave Iliff, said: "The children had a wonderful day and got to see first-hand what life on a university is like.

"I'm sure it will inspire some to go on to higher education, while others might return sooner to make use of the excellent facilities that are open to the public."

Vehicle provider celebrates Skem depot anniversary

THE Skelmersdale depot of a nationwide commerical vehicle hire company is celebrating its five-year anniversary.

Dawsonrentals vans, based in Priorswood Place, East Pimbo, has invested heavily in new vehicles for the site, which has resulted in its live trading accounts increasing by 55% within the last two years.

And the company continues to invest in Volkswagen, Ford, Vauxhall, Mercedes-Benz and Isuzu models, providing customers at the Skelmersdale depot with a wide choice of vehicles.

The site also supports the business's specialist vehicle division, offering clients 4x4s and traffic management vehicles, as well as drop-side and welfare vans to meet the growing demands of the construction, highway and industrial sectors.

Managers at the depot said the business continues to demonstrate its 'customer first ethos' as it installs the innovative Portable Auto Centre into the Skelmersdale depot.

Launched last year at the CV Show, The Portable Auto Centre (PAC) aims to enable fleet operators to quickly estimate and cost-effectively repair hired vehicles.

The Skelmersdale depot is the next site to receive the 'state-of-the-art' module equipment, following the successful installation of the PAC at company's headquarters in Milton Keynes.

Chris Beeton, head of sales at Dawsonrentals vans, said: "The last three years have been particularly significant for our Skelmersdale depot.

"Our focus has been on building customer relations throughout the North West by ensuring we're the first choice for van hire across the region, and it's fantastic to see this success recognised in our growing live trading accounts.

"The introduction of the Portable Auto Centre to Skelmersdale reflects the team's ambition to provide the very best service to customers, and I'm looking forward to seeing what the future holds."

Cycle to Work Scheme to continue but with changes

THE Skelmersdale and Up Holland (Re)Cycle to Work Scheme, which allows employees to apply for a grant to buy a reconditioned bike to travel to some of the difficult to reach industrial estates in Skelmersdale, is to continue - but with some changes.

West Lancs Council's cabinet discussed the project at their recent meeting.

Applicants wishing to take advantage of the scheme must live in the Skelmersdale and Up Holland area; work or have an offer of employment on the Pimbo industrial estate or White Moss Business Park; and be earning less than £25,000 per annum.

Following the meeting the council's decided to increase the funding to the nominated supplier (Total Reuse) from £50 to £100 per bike and to give them a 'springboard' grant of £800 to improve their stock availability.

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School offers Family Learning courses

DELPH Side Community Primary School is continuing to support children and families from the Skelmersdale area by offering Family Learning opportunities.

The school in Eskdale, Tanhouse, recently ran a paediatric first aid course which was well attended.

Their next course, starting at the end of January, is called Eat Well for Less and is free to all residents in Skelmersdale.

In addition, the school also now provide an after-school club, again available to all families in the area, with a free pick up from other schools.

Anyone interested in attending the courses or the after-school club is asked to ring the school on 01695 721881 or log on to the school's website at www.delphside.lancs.sch.uk/our-school/clubs/the-learning-zone

RIGHT: A previous Family Learning course at Delph Side Community Primary School

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£2m pub plan gets green light

By **Henry James**

A PROPOSAL by brewers Marston's to build a pub/restaurant on the existing Asda overflow car park at Ingram, Birch Green has been approved by West Lancs councillors.

The application was discussed at a meeting of the borough's planning committee on Thursday, January 14.

Under the plans the restaurant would cater for up to 180 dinners and be of a "traditional design."

It is hoped the scheme will secure inward investment of more than £2m and create between 40 to 50 full-time permanent jobs for local residents.

Marston's say the facility will be targeted at families and those wanting to dine.

Customers would be able to access the venue by turning off the roundabout which leads to the Asda delivery area.

It would also have parking spaces for 55 cars.

In his report on the proposal, the council's assistant director of planning, John Harrison, wrote : "The proposed development is considered to be acceptable and provides significant improvements to the leisure and evening economy within Skelmersdale town centre and is unlikely to prejudice the outstanding requirements of the development plan.

"Furthermore, the proposal has no significant impact upon the local highway network or surrounding residential amenity and is therefore in accordance with the development plan."

He also believed the pub/restaurant would, "help create an evening economy with a recognised family pub/restaurant chain, which is lacking in the present town centre and will therefore improve the viability and vitality of the town centre and complement the existing and proposed uses in the area."

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Salad firm team to tackle charity run

A TEAM from Skelmersdale-based Salads to Go is preparing to join runners from throughout the area when the popular Southport Mad Dog 10k returns for the sixth year on Sunday, February 7.

The challenge is a firm favourite with athletes and fun runners, attracting around 2,500 entrants each year.

And employees from Salads to Go, part of the bagged salad brand and headline sponsor Florette, are busy preparing for the event.

Ideal for beginners right through to experienced runners, the run will start at 10.40am from Marshside Road at the northern end of the resort and take entrants along the Southport shoreline.

Marketing manager at Florette, Niki Webster, said: "This year's Mad Dog 10k is set to be bigger and better than ever, and 'Team Florette' is already looking forward to joining local runners on the start line at this feelgood event."

The Mad Dog 10k has been crowned Best 10k Race in the UK by a range of running organisations throughout the years, including Runners World and the National Running Awards.

It is organised by the Southport Hesketh Round Table, with proceeds from the race donated to local charities.

Race director, Adrian Shandley, of the Southport Hesketh Round Table, added: "The dedication and enthusiasm of the local community is what makes this 10k run such a special event, and year after year, there's a real buzz around the course.

"We look forward to seeing 'Team Florette' and our other local runners in action on the day."

For more information on the event go to www.maddog10k.co.uk/

They're off . . . competitors at the start of last year's Mad Dog 10k

VOGUE Hair

CELEBRATION OPEN DAY

Today Wednesday 27th January

Rachelle O'Donnell took over Vogue Hair & Beauty last October. Over the years Rachelle has worked locally for salons in Skelmersdale and Rufford and now runs her own business with a full range of hair services and some beauty including Acrylic nails, Gellac/Shallac, manicures and pedicures.

They also offer makeup for Prom's, Parties, Weddings or just a night out and can offer any package with a mix of services at a good price. Situated in Sandy Lane (37) Skelmersdale (Above Dave's Barber's) and have a Facebook page.

Join the team at there open day 27th January from 1:30pm come along and join in enjoy the live music and refreshments as well as a visit from the Lady Mayor to officially open Vogue. We will be giving away vouchers with £5 off any service and we are having a couple of raffles.

All money raised will be given to Kingsbury school, a school for children with learning difficulties.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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More than farms at risk if pumps are switched off

FIRSTLY, I must declare some self-interest here, since our community farm known as Organic Veg Club suffered greatly when the bank of the Ellerbrook collapsed into our field putting it under five feet of standing water and 36 chickens and ducks were lost and all our crops, tools and equipment are still under water.

Our field is ultimately drained by the Rufford Causeway Pump which is scheduled to be turned off in less than two years' time.

The Environment Agency says that 'ponding' will then take place over time.

This will cause the current lake, which stretches from Meadow Lane in Burscough all the way to Rufford, to develop into a permanent feature.

This would render prime farmland unworkable and put businesses at risk.

However, we are also told that this will not cause flood risk to any houses.

Imagine then a future episode of high rainfall adding to a permanent Rufford lake.

This water is currently draining under its own steam, at great force, into the sluice.

It runs past houses in Brick Kiln Lane and Cousin's Lane, right through a major area of population in Rufford.

I find it very hard to believe that only farmland would be affected if this were to occur.

Turning off these pumps and creating a lake removes the capacity for farmland to take any excess water.

Flood plains need to be drained otherwise they cease to be flood plains.

Neil Hickson, Organic Veg Club, Burscough

Tireless, efficient teamwork by friends and strangers alike helped to minimise flood disruption

THE recent widespread floods over the north visited Springfield Court on Boxing Day.

Fortunately, friends, strangers, neighbours and staff all worked tirelessly to minimise the disruption to the home, and managed, with the support of the local fire service, to restrict the damage.

Three rooms were affected, and the residents were very quickly made comfortable in alternative accommodation within the home.

The owners took immediate steps to ensure that the home and its residents would be completely protected from any further freak weather.

A consultation with United Utilities and John Mallinson, a friend and local engineer, generously used their expertise to take preventative steps, restoring a gulley in the adjoining field.

Thanks to the fire service and John Mallinson for their quick and efficient work.

Liz Wynne, Springfield Court Nursing Home, Aughton

I've never seen anything like it!

THE flooding that I saw around the festive season in Burscough was terrible, I have never seen anything like it.

At least four homes in Garnett Green have been completely flooded out and they have had to leave. It was awful.

It will take around six months for them to be able to return home and they have been splitting their time between hotels and friends' and families' homes.

They have all lost many of their possessions too, I feel so sorry for them. Some of the homes will even need to be stripped back to plasterboard before they start to rebuild them.

Mrs Phillips, Burscough

PICTURE of the week

Agricultural fields near Mains Lane, in Hoscar are still flooded after the recent heavy rain. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Thanks, folks

LATHOM James' Church, Westhead would like to thank all those that attended the 'Christmas Tree Fest' during the festive period.

The church would also like to thank those who supported the event including, many local businesses and members of the local community.

The three-day event featured an amazing display of decorated Christmas trees, a 'Jazzamatazz' concert, a performance from a local singing group, children's craft workshops, a Christmas deli and a refreshments stall.

All contributions were greatly appreciated which made for a unique event, much enjoyed by all.

Diane Chambers, Westhead

It's time to put your money where your mouth is over Edge Hill

WITH regard to people in Ormskirk liking or disliking Edge Hill, there is a simple way of sorting this out and making your views known.

Those who support Edge Hill, continue to do so in whatever way you see fit. Those who don't support it, then boycott it.

That would include boycotting shops who employ students and refusing to vote for councillors who are student landlords. Basically, put your money where your mouth is.

I will be boycotting Morrisons and Netto to start with, you may know other shops and businesses who employ students or support Edge Hill.

It may change things, it may not. But you'll be doing something positive to make your opinion known.

And to those who say it will cost jobs, I'll point out that other shops want to come here and it's a simple thing for shops to say they'll give jobs to local people not students so we'll soon see where their loyalties lie.

And maybe some of the housing empty for six months of the year will be available to families with no homes. Like those who were homeless over this holiday period and whose landlords wouldn't rent to homeless families in case they couldn't be removed for when the students come back.

Ken Walters, Green Lane Avenue,

Bus is a lifeline for villagers

IN Up Holland we have no bank, no post office and now they have informed us that we are to lose our bus service too.

We have to travel to Asda to collect our pension and without this bus it will be impossible for a lot of people to even get to the supermarket as there are people who would not get out but for this bus.

Then there are the residents of Roby Mill who have no other transport , also those who have to travel to Wrightington Hospital for treatment will struggle.

I know there are a lot of people in situations just like ours, not just in Up Holland.

I myself have just had surgery and I am in my 80s.

Margaret Johnson, Up Holland

Kindness much appreciated

I *WOULD like to issue a thank-you via the letters page of the Champion.*

Recently my elderly father fell one morning while walking alone to church along Prescot Road in Aughton.

A car stopped and two women helped him up and then a taxi (with a customer) also stopped and took him the rest of the way to the church.

I would simply like to write a thank-you to these people for their kindness in stopping and helping.

J. Gilmour, by email

Removing police commissioner could help cut overheads

CLIVE Grunshaw, police and crime commissioner asks how much will ratepayers pay to bolster the force. My answer is nil.

We pay rates, we do not subsidise government funding reductions.

Grunshaw's request, is blackmail by innuendo. It infers we shall get reduced policing if we don't pay up.

The government are trying to get the police to be more cost-effective by getting rid of management tiers and antiquated systems. However the recent proposed reductions have been challenged by the chief constable and cancelled by the government. So where is Grunshaw coming from?

He proposes to poll 14 county areas, obtaining 100 answers per area, to loaded questions. This will, hopefully form the basis for an increased precept.

1,400 answers from a county population of 1,471,979 persons is 0.00095%. This is a nonsense and a statistical fudge on a grand scale.

At what cost are these proposals? Perhaps if we removed the police commissioner and his office staff we could make a small dent in the police overheads.

Graham P. Walker, Up Holland

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Men-aces announce launch date of new 17-seater minibus

Report by **Henry James**

SKEM Men-aces disability football team have been given a launch date of Saturday, January 30 for their new 17-seater minibus.

The team were able to purchase the vehicle thanks to a donation of £12,000 from former Mayor of West Lancashire, Councillor Doreen Stephenson, after being nominated as one of her mayoral charities during her year of office.

And the group were further helped when they were offered a "substantial discount" on the van by local motor dealers 06 Vauxhall.

Mim Eaton, from the Men-aces said: "It has always been our dream that one day we would possess our very own minibus."

And although there was a shortfall when it came to buying the vehicle, this was kindly met by staff at The Hub Pharmacy in Pimbo.

They held a number of fundraising events, including a silly jumper day, and cake sales, and were able to present the Men-aces with a cheque for £408.

Mim Eaton said: "The launch date for our brand new mini bus is now Saturday, January 30.

"We have worked so hard for these wheels but it's all going to be worth it.

"We'd like to offer an extra-special thank-you to the employees at The Hub Pharmacy for their efforts helping to get us up to the final total in."

The minibus will be ready just in time to take five lads that have been chosen to represent Skem Men-aces in trials for Team GB. If any of them are selected they will be flying out to Geneva in May for the Mencap European Championships.

Mim added: "This is a great honour for all the lads. Even to go to the trials in Knaresborough is a good effort. Good luck to them all."

Carl Eaton from the Men-aces is shown receiving the cheque for £408.65 from employees from The Hub Pharmacy in Pimbo.

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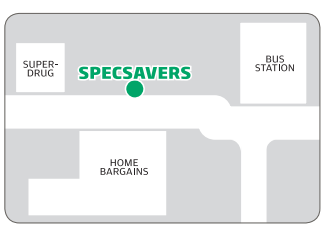

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Actress and Super League club lead charity's call for puppy 'socialiser' volunteers

By **Henry James**

ACTRESS Jo Bennett and members of the Wigan Warriors rugby league club are leading the call for volunteers in Skelmersdale to come forward in aid of the Dogs For Good charity's puppy socialiser appeal.

Dogs for Good urgently needs more volunteer puppy socialisers in the town to care for pups from eight weeks for around a year.

The charity would love to hear from people who have a secure garden and won't be away from the pup for more than four hours a day.

The puppies are destined to become life-changing assistance dogs supporting adults and children with a range of disabilities and families of a child with autism, or therapy dogs working in special educational needs schools and with adults with autism.

Support

Puppy socialisers train their pups in basic obedience and introduce them to a variety of environments (e.g. shopping centres, cafes, hospitals, sports clubs, trains and buses) to help them become confident, well-behaved dogs in places they will encounter as working dogs.

Dogs for Good staff provide excellent support and run regular puppy classes locally.

Potential volunteers should visit www.dogsforgood.org to find out more and check if they fulfil the criteria for the role.

Super League giants Wigan Warriors are proud to support disabled fans and provide two designated disabled platforms in prime positions, including catering and toilet facilities and lifts with direct access. There are also additional facilities for wheelchair supporters in front of the west stand.

The Dogs For Good charity is looking for volunteer puppy socialisers in the Skelmersdale area

Jo Bennett is currently featuring in ITV 1's new blockbuster series, Jericho and has also appeared in a number of popular programmes including Coronation Street, Emmerdale, Shameless, Scott & Bailey, Waterloo Road, Happy Valley and Last Tango in Halifax.

When she found out about Puppy Socialising for Dogs for Good, she said: "I was instantly hooked. To combine my love of dogs and my desire to help people and give something back to society was a dream come true.

"To play a small part in providing people with life-changing assistance dogs is so rewarding."

Sefton Council Leisure Centres Are Shaping Up

Residents across Sefton can start pushing their fitness to new levels in the recently transformed Sefton Council leisure centres, thanks to an unbeatable new membership offer.

Dunes Splash World, Crosby Lakeside and Meadows have all benefited from a significant investment strategy to provide improved facilities and state of the art equipment for users following extensive research into fitness trends, public health and customer feedback.

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Cllr Ian Moncur, Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

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MP puts residents' concerns over wind farm to minister

Report by **Henry James**

A LOCAL MP has written to the Environment Minister over residents' concerns that a proper environmental assessment has not been carried out on proposals to build a wind farm near Great Altcar on the West Lancashire-Sefton border.

Sefton Central MP, Bill Esterson also claims that images released by Coriolis Energy of how the turbines will look are misleading.

He said: "Residents are concerned that acres of land will be carved up to make access roads for the turbines, which will be used by heavy goods vehicles for the construction and servicing of the site.

"Each gigantic turbine will then require the removal of huge quantities of ecologically important peat to be replaced by up to 1,000 tons of concrete."

Mr Esterson has written to the Secretary of State and West Lancashire Council.

He added: "This area has a high water table and is susceptible to flooding.

Bill Esterson

Big impact

"The hydrological equilibrium of the environment needs to be properly assessed, as evidenced by the test bore holes, where water is still continuing to leak into the water course, from the test site.

"It is also a unique wildlife area, it is the feeding ground of our pink footed geese. Lunt Meadows and Wetlands Nature Reserve is being created as a sanctuary for key bird species, with reed beds and habitats, thus the loss of local birds, bats and migrating birds is inevitable."

The MP also believes the structures will dominate the low lying landscape and have a big impact on residents of both West Lancashire and Sefton.

Since last year planning applications for wind farms can only be granted if the development site is in an area identified as suitable for wind energy development in a Local Plan.

There then needs to be a consultation, where it has to be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed and. therefore. has their backing.

Mr Esterson continued: "The negative visual impact that these massive structures (136.5m in height), will have on our landscape is obvious, yet the photographs presented by Coriolis Energy, depict unimposing turbines in the far distance. This will not be the reality for local residents."

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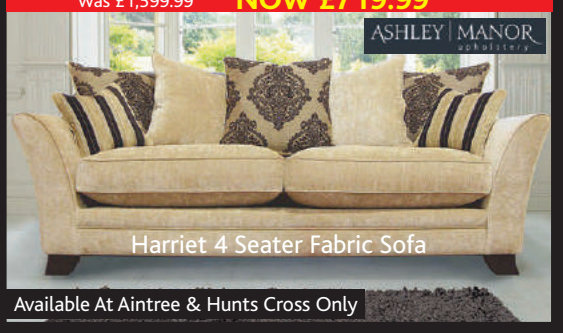

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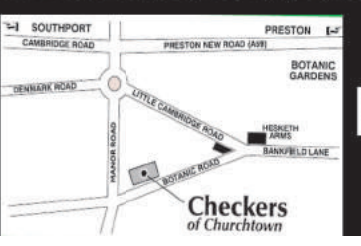

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Nicole's on write lines in aid of cancer charity

Report by **Henry James**

TRAINEE teacher Nicole Proffitt is hoping to be on the 'write' lines to boost a charity close to her heart after making her publishing debut with a children's picture book.

The 20-year-old, who is studying to be a primary school teacher at Edge Hill University, was inspired to create the book to raise funds for Brain Tumour Research after her dad Richard was diagnosed with the disease THREE times.

All profits from the book - Slade The Sleepy Sheep - will be split between the charity and the family.

Nicole said: "Seeing my dad so poorly made me want to do something positive to help him and others like him. Brain tumours kill more children and adults under the age of 40 than any other cancer, yet just 1% of the national spend on cancer research has been allocated to this devastating disease.

"I will be donating 50% of the profits of my book to this very worthwhile cause with the other half helping our family finances."

Richard, formerly a transport supervisor, has been unable to drive since his diagnosis, now works as a postman.

He was first diagnosed in 2003 after suffering constant headaches and a scan revealed a tumour the size of a kiwi fruit. Although this was successfully removed, he has since suffered two further recurrences and undergone a number of surgical procedures.

Nicole added: "At present dad is doing okay, although he has been left with epilepsy and disturbed vision. But I wanted to do something to help so I set my mind to creating this book which I am self-publishing,"

Nicole with dad Richard and a copy of her book

Written as a rhyming narrative, the book tells the story of Slade the sheep who is too sleepy to go to school but when his parents finally convince him to go he discovers a world of adventures and new friends.

Illustrated by Nicola Hayes, a fine art student at Liverpool Hope University, the book is priced £6 and can be bought online at www.sladethesleepy-sheep.com

Sue Farrington Smith, chief executive of Brain Tumour Research, said: "We admire Nicole's creative approach to help her dad and others like him. Together we will find a cure."

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Crosby, Litherland, Aintree, Maghull, Walton, Anfield, Netherton, Bootle, Formby, Ormskirk and Skelmersdale areas & Paul is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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Sports students team up

A GROUP of sports students have teamed up with Edge Hill University to enjoy hands-on work experience.

Undergraduates from Winstanley College's sports therapy & coaching and school PE courses will be visited by teams from the university offering field-side massage to players on various sports teams, as well as personal training and coaching advice.

Claire Farquharson, lecturer in sports therapy at Edge Hill, said: "The link will be mutually beneficial. Our students get the practical, clinical placement hours they need and, hopefully, the college's sports teams will benefit from their skills."

Sports therapy students at Edge Hill University

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Council stages growth and networking event for local businesses

By **Henry James**

LOCAL business owners are being invited to attend a special growth and networking event in the borough

The 'Let's Talk Business' day, organised by West Lancs Council, will be held at the West Tower Hotel, Aughton, on Thursday, March 10 from 8 to 10.30am.

It will be hosted by Councillor Frank McKenna, the council's economic regeneration champion.

Guest speaker is Joycelyn Neve, founder of the Seafood Pub Company, who will talk about how she has successfully grown her business which includes the Town Green Brasserie.

Following Ms Neve's talk the winners of the 'Let's Talk Apprenticeship' awards 2016 will be announced.

There will also be an opportunity to find out about funding opportunities and to meet members of the council's economic regeneration team.

Places for the event are free but you must register to attend by emailing your details to info.edu@westlancs.gov.uk or calling 01695 712692 before 4pm on Friday, March 5.

West Lancs Council leader and cabinet member for economic regeneration, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "Businesses should sign up now for the 'Let's Talk Business' event as I am sure it will be an excellent morning.

"We have a great guest speaker and we will also find out the deserving winners of the 'Let's Talk Apprenticeship' awards."

Meanwhile, there is still time for West Lancashire businesses to apply and nominate for the apprenticeship awards, which they can do for free.

The categories are:

Apprentice of the Year 2016.

If your organisation has an existing apprentice or an employee who has completed their apprenticeship in the last 12 months, who you think has exhibited the drive and enthusiasm to be awarded The Let's Talk Apprentice of the Year award 2016, then please nominate this person and celebrate their achievement.

Apprentice Employer of the Year 2016.

If you have an existing apprenticeship or training programme that you think works well for both the apprentice(s) and your business, then please nominate your company and gain recognition as an apprentice employer in West Lancashire.

Applications for both categories can be made online at www.westlancs.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsawards.

The closing date for all applications is Friday, February 12 and all applicants will be in with the chance to win a prize.

Joycelyn Neve

New friendship club all set for take-off

A NEW friendship group for men and women of all ages is being set up in Ormskirk.

Catherine Glachan is the driving force behind the launch of not-for-profit group Ormskirk Social Butterflies, with the aim of organising meetings and social events online, for a one-off £3 joining fee.

Members signing up to the group will create an their own own online 'profile' featuring a unique name and a head shot.

Then they will be able to put forward suggestions for activities, speak to the other members and pay for trips on the site, at wwwmeetup.com.

There will be no monthly or annual fees and the idea is that members will be able to suggest their own ideas while making new friends.

Catherine said: "The group is intended to be for anyone who wants to be out and about socially. It is open to men or women of any age, married or single, it makes no difference.

"Ideally though members need to be able to use the Internet.

"And once they have registered online, they will find out what events are on and where, and whether there is availability for people to come along and join affordable activities in their area.

"People come into our lives for a reason, season or lifetime - we don't mind which

"We will meet regularly to enjoy meals out, drinks, cinema, theatre trips etc.

"If you have some fab ideas you'd like to suggest or even organise, you've also come to the right place."

For more information, visit www.meetup.com

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Leader's call to remember victims of genocide

WEST Lancs Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, is calling on residents of the borough to take time out today (Wednesday, January 27) to remember all victims of genocide.

Holocaust Memorial Day is a time for people to remember the six million victims of the Holocaust and also the millions of others who suffered under Nazi persecution or were killed in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.

Cllr. Moran said: "As a young serviceman I was stationed in Germany and visited the concentration camp at Bergen Belsen. That was an incredibly moving experience and I believe that Holocaust Memorial Day is an important day for us to take time to remember the victims of Nazi Germany and subsequent genocides."

The theme of this year's day is 'Don't stand by'.

It marks the 71st anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, while 2016 is also the 21st anniversary of the genocide in Srebrenica, Bosnia.

Cllr. Moran added: "The day gives us a chance to honour the survivors and look to our own lives and communities today.

"Genocide is a gradual process which begins when the differences between us are not celebrated but used as a reason to exclude or marginalise. By learning from the lessons of the past, we can create a safer, better future.

"This year's theme urges people not to be bystanders to hate crime, but to challenge prejudice and discrimination if we hear it in our own communities."

Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Nikki Hennessy will attend Holocaust memorial services in Chorley and Preston.

For details of other Holocaust Memorial events go to www.hmd.org.uk.

If you're feeling low it's good to talk

...that's message from health trust team to those affected by mental health issues

MEMBERS of the Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's Mindsmatter service are encouraging residents in the county to talk about mental health issues and get in touch for advice and support.

Although January 18 - known as 'Blue Monday' as it is reckoned to be the day in the year when most people are likely to be at their lowest ebb - has passed, the Mindsmatter team is still urging people to reach out for their help.

The team provides a variety of services including stress control workshops, cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) and access to online therapy courses.

Sue Critchley, Mindsmatter Service manager at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "January can be a difficult time for many with the festivities of December over and the stresses that may have brought, including family or financial issues, having continued into the new year.

"Many people shy away from talking about how they feel for fear of what people may say. But we want them to know that it is okay to talk about how they are feeling,

"And by engaging in conversations about mental health we can help break down barriers and stigma associated with mental ill-health so people feel comfortable reaching out for help.

"If anyone is concerned about low mood and think they may be experiencing symptoms associated with depression, stress and anxiety, they can call their local team for advice and support.

"Around one in four people will experience mental health issues during their lifetime so the chances are we will all know someone dealing with it.

"We want people to know it is okay to talk about their mental health so they don't suffer alone."

To find out more about the Mindsmatter team and for details of your local team visit www.lancashire-care.nhs.uk/mindsmatter.

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Bank staff sign up to be Dementia Friends

BANK staff enjoyed becoming Dementia Friends at a session held in Parbold.

Dementia Champion Joe Sherville held an hour-long Dementia Friends session at the Lindsay House Care Home on Parbold Hill, which was attended by staff from the Royal Bank of Scotland's Parbold branch, as well as staff from the care home and relatives of the home's residents.

The national Alzheimer's Society charity's Dementia Friends programme is their biggest initiative to change people's perceptions of dementia.

It aims to transform the way the nation thinks, talks and acts about the condition.

The charity wants there to be a million Dementia Friends with the know-how to help people with dementia feel understood and included in their community.

There are currently 685,000 people living with the condition in England.

Dementia Friends Champions are volunteers who talk to people about being a Dementia Friend in their communities.

Joe Sherville spoke about the physical, emotional and social implications of dementia and the fear of being stigmatised if you have the condition.

He also spoke about what memory loss means for those living with dementia in their day to day life – for example, how their living environment needs to be adapted, and how money or appliances may be different to what they are expecting.

He explained that memory loss becomes more severe the longer the person has been living with the condition - and that for some sufferers, memories from two, three or four decades ago may be their most recent memory.

For more information visit dementiafriends.org.uk

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'Hobby bobbies' plan is policing on the cheap

CANNOT believe that I am unique in feeling deeply concerned about the latest piece of dangerous nonsense unveiled by the Home Secretary last week.

This ripping wheeze envisages a force of unpaid ordinary folk to be called 'Police Community Support Volunteers', apparently a kind of slightly watered-down version of the familiar PCSOs.

The big difference being the word 'unpaid.'

But these hobby bobbies will have the power to issue on-the-spot fines, to detain 'suspects' for up to half-an-hour, interview victims and take victim statements. They may even go out on patrol with proper police officers.

What worries me is that though some of these PCSVs might be doing the job simply for the good of the community, others will be on a power trip, stopping anybody who is doing anything of which they do not approve.

It's bad enough that we already have paid snoopers empowered to demand evidence that I have dog poo bags about my person when I take Tina and Cinders for their constitutional. But it seems to me that this new group could pick on anybody they chose with little real evidence that they had done anything.

But surely, if the government wants to employ ordinary folk to do a police job, why can't they ask for volunteers to man the police station enquiry desks that have been closed down throughout the country?

Even after the recent unfortunate spate of library closures, it's still far more easy to find one open than it is to find a police station where you can actually call in either to report a crime or even to hand in a lost purse or wallet.

As an aside, I remember some years ago finding an unopened wage packet in a Norfolk village. I took it to the local police house, disturbing the village constable in the middle of his lunch, who filled in the requisite forms, thanked me, and I was on my way. What on earth I would be supposed to do with it these days I have no idea. I don't suppose these proposed ersatz policepersons would want to know about found lost property.

For that matter though, I have no idea what sort of uniform these police nosey parkers may wear. But assuming it is similar to the (paid) PCSOs' one, then presumably your Joe or Jill Public will easily be fooled into thinking this is a genuine officer of the law - not some bloke or woman from a neighbouring street exercising their own judgement or prejudice on an unsuspecting 'suspect' and detaining them, perhaps on a whim.

Now I also see that in two counties, police chiefs have already started a scheme to recruit volunteers with computer skills to give a hand to detectives investigating online crime, by which I suppose they mean inside the police station doing basic work to free up the police officers to get on with their jobs.

And that's fine with me, because it's fundamentally different from unleashing semi-trained amateurs on to our streets with powers over me and you.

I have a sinking feeling that in fact this new initiative is simply a government idea to replace the PCSOs on the cheap - and at the same time run the risk of destroying much public confidence in the police in general.

What next, I wonder?

Help available to make homes and businesses more flood-resistant

A SCHEME which it is hoped will help West Lancashire homeowners and businesses to make their property more resistant to future floods has been announced by the government.

Under the scheme, those affected by storms Desmond and Eva can apply for grants of up to £5,000 to help them improve their flood defences.

The grants, to be administered by local district councils, are intended to help homeowners and businesses put in measures which improve the property's resilience or resistance to flooding, over and above repairs that would normally be covered by insurance.

More details on how to apply for the Flood Resilience Grant Scheme are available from the relevant local authorities.

Leader of Lancashire County Council, County Councillor Jennifer Mein said: "All of Lancashire's affected councils have been working very hard with central government and other agencies to help homeowners and businesses to get back on their feet following the flooding.

Delievered

"This new scheme should play a real part in reducing the impact of any future flooding.

"As well as the £500 payments to all affected households there are other sources of funding available for householders and businesses, and I'd like to urge people to make the most of them.

"Details of the funding, along with who runs each scheme, are available on our website http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/.

"If you're not sure if you're eligible, just ask."

The support for businesses is delivered through Boost Business Lancashire, the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership's growth hub.

Further help in the shape of local tax relief is available for residents and businesses whose properties have not been occupied due to the flooding, with details of the application process available from district councils.

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For more information please contact the Manager, Deirdre Mitten on 01695 720 555 or email: enquiries.scfi@gmail.com.

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Improved sexual health services will be launched in April

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

Councillor Azhar Ali

IMPROVED sexual health services will be launched in Lancashire on Friday, April 1.

The services, one providing a comprehensive service for all adults and one specifically for younger people aged up to 25, will be run by Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust respectively, on behalf of Lancashire County Council.

The improved service means that people will be able to see health experts who will provide the full range of sexual health advice and support in one appointment.

This will include giving advice about sexual health issues, testing for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), prescribing medicines to treat STIs, and discussing and arranging contraception.

The trust will also provide education and training to other organisations involved with sexual health issues.

Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust working in partnership with Brook, the young people's sexual health and wellbeing charity, will run a separate service for young people up to the age of 25. This will provide specialised contraception, STI treatment, advice and testing services in one appointment.

The young people's service will also deliver the Lancashire-wide condom scheme and co-ordinate the national chlamydia screening programme across the county.

For more complex STI treatment and contraception issues, young people will be referred to the 'all-age' sexual health service.

County Councillor Azhar Ali, Lancashire's cabinet member for health and wellbeing, said: "We're committed to improving people's health and reducing the gap in health between poorer and more affluent communities.

"Sexual health is an important part of this and the new services will lead to major improvements across the county.

"The opening times for services will be more convenient and ensure all communities have access to the same level of care."

For more information, visit lancashire.gov.uk

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Police commissioner swamped with proceeds of crime pot fund requests

Report by **Henry James**

THERE have been 92 applications totalling £3.7m for a grant pot of £600k of money seized from criminals.

The grants, funded under the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA), have been made available by Lancashire's police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw.

Local organisations were invited to apply for funding of between £5,000 and £100k to help them set up new initiatives that support the commissioner's police and crime plan priorities.

These are as follows:

Supporting front-line policing.

Protecting vulnerable people.

Tackling crime and re-offending.

Championing victims' rights.

Mr Grunshaw said: "In Lancashire we have been very proactive in making sure that criminals don't profit from their illegal activity and have taken clear steps to recover assets.

"As a result I have been able to put money back into the force to help fight crime and I also decided to make some of the cash taken from criminals available to organisations to help deliver schemes that will keep Lancashire safe.

"The money can't be used to fund existing revenue costs, but can be used set up new schemes or for capital investment to help a service improve or grow.

"They must also demonstrate how they will deliver against the priorities in my police and crime plan."

Clive Grunshaw

Panels made up of senior police officers and representatives from the commissioner's office are set to determine the grant applications against the criteria with awards being announced in early February.

The commissioner added: "We have had an amazing response receiving 92 applications which together total over £3.7m.

"Demand is clearly above available resources, however, there is no doubt the grant money will go a significant way to supporting some very positive work in our communities."

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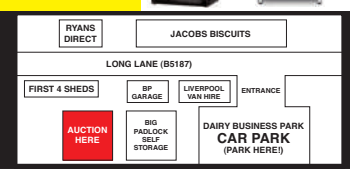

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All friends together as care home launches project with pub meal

Care home residents and family and friends pictured at the first Friendship Day at the Bull and Dog in Burscough

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

STAFF at a care home in Ormskirk have launched a new 'friendship' initiative.

The team at Abbey Wood Lodge care home on County Road have launched the project Friendship Days, which seeks to bring together care homes, community groups and local businesses across West Lancashire to enable new friendships to be formed.

Last year, staff at the home spearheaded a campaign to make older people in the local community feel more involved by inviting them to join residents at free activities and events held at the home and day trips out.

The first Friendship Day saw residents from the home joined by residents from Lindsay House Care Home in Parbold and members of their friends and family meet up for a meal at the Bull and Dog in Burscough.

Abbey Wood Lodge events organiser, Lesley Malone told the Champion: "We will be doing events on a monthly basis where mature people can arrange to come along and join in making new friends.

" Friendship Days are a part of the Community Care Forum that we launched in September to allow people from a range of organisations to gather together and discuss and share each other's ideas, activities and events that can help mature people to become more involved in the local community.

"Anyone is welcome to come along on their own and meet new friends or come with friends and meet more friends!

"If you would like to know more, please contact me on 01695767778."

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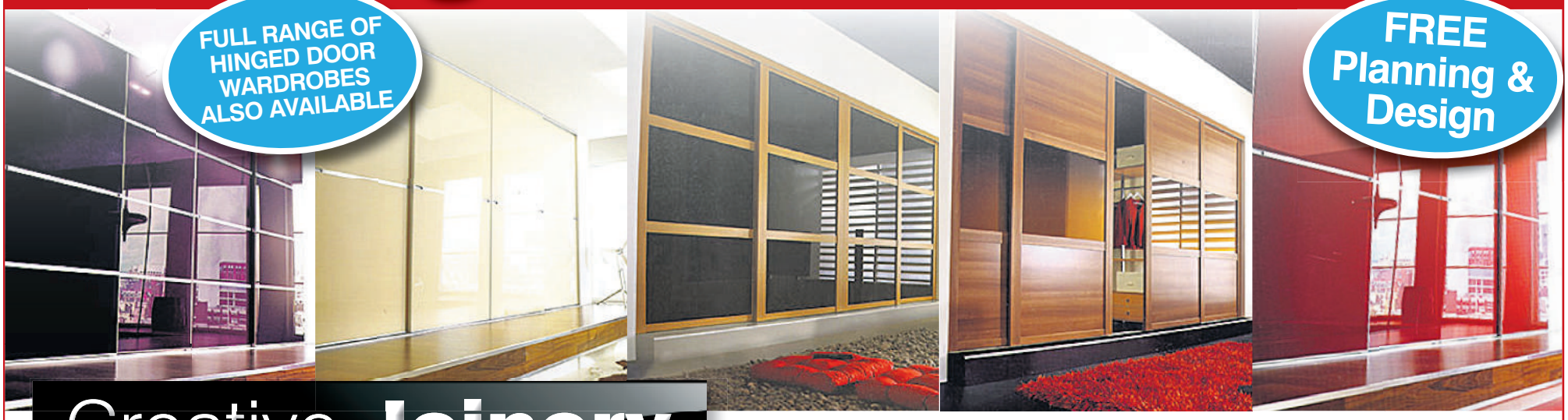

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Win tickets to see Impossible - 'the most dangerous show ever'

A SHOW described as 'the most dangerous the UK has ever seen' is coming to Liverpool and The Champion has four family tickets to give away.

Impossible, which features the world's greatest illusionists live on stage in a magic spectacular will be at the Liverpool Empire from Tuesday, February 9 to Saturday, February 13.

The show will include Grand Illusionist Josephine Lee, one of the fastest in the business, holding the world record for the most number of illusions performed in five minutes with the world-renowned Hans Klok, an accolade held to this day.

Also appearing will be daredevil and TV escapologist, Jonathan Goodwin who will have audiences on the edge of their seats as he dices with death on stage.

Since first appearing on Channel 4's Dirty Tricks, Goodwin has brought his stunts to various TV specials including The Seven Stupidest Things to Escape From and How Not to Become Shark Bait!

In his television series he pushes the limits of possibility with stunts that range from extreme planking to climbing skyscrapers.

The show will also feature Lee Thompson whose trademark trickery has bamboozled audiences all over the world.

Impossible includes some of the most amazing illusions ever seen in the UK

He has entertained on stage, screen and TV for more than 25 years, starring in shows for Cirque du Soleil, Mugler Follies in Paris, Cannes and Hollywood.

From physical comedy, misdirection and stylish sleight-of hand to his less respectable talents, he aims to have you flummoxed with his dexterity.

Another highlight of the show will be Magical Bones, the South London street conjurer and break-dancing master considered to be the world's best hip-hop magician.

After starting out in the music industry as a dancer for the likes of Madonna and the Black Eyed Peas, Bones turned his attention to wowing the public with expert sleight-of-hand and tricks to stump any seasoned skeptic.

Fusing death-defying stunts, technological trickery, grand stage illusions and close-up magic in a fast-paced breathtaking performance, Impossible aims to reinvent the biggest illusions in history in the greatest magic show on earth.

To be in with a chance of winning tickets to Impossible simply answer the following question:

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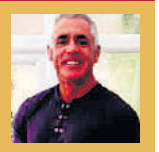

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MP sponsors Bill calling for tougher penalties for dangerous drivers

Report by **Henry James**

ROSIE Cooper has pledged her support for a bid to impose tougher penalties on those who drive dangerously and risk the lives of innocent road users and pedestrians.

The Criminal Driving (Justice for Victims) Bill was presented in the House of Commons by Leeds North West MP, Greg Mulholland with West Lancs MP, Ms Cooper as co-sponsor.

They were joined by another 29 members from all parties who also backed the proposal.

The Bill calls for longer sentences, to redefine criminal driving, amend bail conditions, and to enhance investigation standards by both the police and in courts. It also calls for improving the treatment of victims and their families.

According to the most recent government figures, for the year 2014-15, 389 people were killed due to dangerous driving. Campaigners have long argued that sentences are too light and do not reflect the severity of offences.

An ongoing review by the Ministry of Justice into driving offences is expected to produce a consultation document later this year into potential legislative changes that are likely to follow in 2017.

Campaigned

Rosie Cooper said: "Victims of criminal driving and their families must always have confidence that our legal system will deliver justice, but time and again they feel let down.

"I was pleased to co-sponsor the Criminal Driving Bill, which calls for tougher sentences, improving investigations and supporting victims better.

"The government's review into driving offences is expected to report later this year, and this is a matter I will be watching closely so we can finally begin to deliver the proper justice that campaigners have long called for."

Rosie Cooper

Greg Mulholland added: "I greatly welcomed Rosie's support for the Criminal Driving Bill. She has campaigned on behalf of families whose lives have been affected by a reckless driver and who feel let down by our legal system.

"With Rosie's support, we will continue the campaign for tougher laws until proper justice is delivered."

And Alice Bailey, campaigns and communications officer at road safety charity, Brake, commented: "Brake is very pleased to see Rosie Cooper MP helping to lead the Criminal Driving Bill and fight for victims of criminal driving and their families.

"We have long believed that our legal system gives them a raw deal and that's why it is vital Parliament brings forward some much needed changes.

"The Criminal Driving Bill contains many of these changes and we hope to continue working with Rosie Cooper on this hugely important issue."

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MG owners club donate £400 to local charities

A GROUP of four-wheel fanatics at a local car club have donated £400 to four worthy charities.

Members of the West Lancashire MG Owners Club, which has been running for 35 years this year, selected the recipients at their annual general meeting at Briars Hall.

Steve Kirton from the club said: "We made our draw of four £100 cheques for local or deserving charities, which are nominated by each member on the night.

"This year we will be donating to Twinkle House children's support service in Skelmersdale, Freshfields Animal Rescue, Southport Offshore Rescue Trust and the Cumbrian Flood Relief.

"With another year under our belt, we will now let the fun and fundraising begin in earnest.

"Just please let the summer be dry and the sun shine!"

Anyone wishing to find out more about the club and how to join should go to their website at www.westlancsmg.co.uk or visit their social media site on Facebook under West Lancs MG Owners.

RIGHT: Members of the West Lancashire MG Owners Club choosing which charities to donate to at their annual general meeting at Briars Hall.

Sports clubs urged to apply to flood damage repair scheme

By **Danielle Thompson**

Time is running out to access Sport England emergency fund

LOCAL sports clubs whose facilities were damaged by the recent floods are being urged to apply to an emergency relief scheme designed to help them to make repairs - before it's too late.

Sport England has created the scheme to help restore pitches and facilities damaged by flood waters and gales during December and the early part of this month.

The funding is available to sports clubs, local authorities and other community sports organisations to help pay for emergency repairs.

However, the fund will only remain open until February 1 so anyone wanting to take advantage needs to get their applications in asap.

Sports England say the application process is designed to be as quick and simple as possible to avoid placing an administrative burden on applicants.

And West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper is encouraging local clubs to apply.

She said: "I would strongly encourage local sports clubs hit by the recent flooding to apply to Sport England to help with restoring local sporting facilities so members and local residents can get back to playing the sports they love."

For more information, visit Sport England at www.sportengland.org/floodfund.

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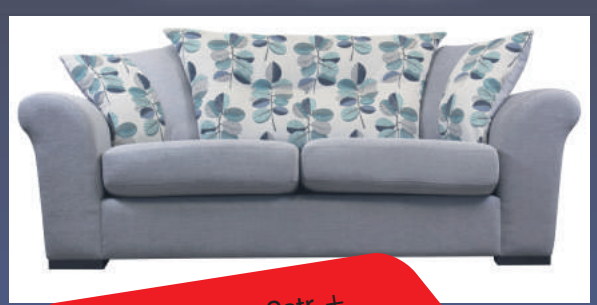

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Chance to polish your IT skills over a cuppa

THE next meeting of the Hobnob coffee morning club to be held at Aughton Village Hall on Wednesday, February 10 will feature a technology clinic when members will be able to discuss any problems they might have with mobile phones, i-pods or any other forms of IT.

Meetings are held every other Wednesday from 11.15am to 12.15pm and all are welcome to enjoy a cuppa and a chat, as well as talks by guest speakers and themed mornings.

Got a story? Ring the News Desk on 01704 392400

ANTIQUES TO GET THE 'ROADSHOW' TREATMENT

One of the North's leading auction houses, Thomas Watson, and Southport Auctions, will be providing free antiques valuations to the people of Southport and surrounding area during the next few weeks.

On hand to give specialist advice will be local antiques expert and UCLAN lecturer Clive Taylor, who will be able to advise on all manner of contemporary or antique objects, including silver, ceramics, glass, pictures, sculpture or other collectables.

"So many people own objects that they are curious about and this free valuation event is an ideal way for them to find out more about them and their current price tags. We are particularly looking for antique Oriental ivory, watches, jewellery and collectables, all of which are currently performing well at auction"

"I am continually surprised by what can turn up and owners can be quite astonished by the value of items that they've been living with for years, especially if they have been passed down through the generations," he said.

The valuations are free with no obligation but anyone wishing to sell an item will be given the option to have it included in the Spring Antiques Sale at the Darlington saleroom of Thomas Watson on 22 March 2016.

"Our estimates are used as a guide price at auction," said Clive Taylor. "If the piece doesn't reach its desired price then it doesn't have to be sold so there is no risk to the seller. In fact, it is a really good incentive to have a clear-out of unwanted possessions and hopefully make some extra money at the same time," he added.

Appointments can be made by calling Southport Auctions on 0800 181 4188 or emailing enquiries@southportauctions.com

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Young artist scoops first prize in national contest

A TALENTED young artist has won the first prize in her age group in a national drawing contest for her picture of a songbird.

Nine-year-old Erin Thain, a member of the 3.30 Fun Club after-school group at St John's Church of England Primary School in Burscough, won the 8 to 11 years category in Morton Michel Insurance Ltd's Design a Bird Competition.

This was run in association with Songbird Survival, a national charity which researches to reverse songbird decline.

The judges especially praised Erin's imaginative acorn microphone and leaf violin.

Her prizes were 120 fibre-tipped colouring pens for herself and a birdtable for the club to encourage and observe birds visiting the school garden.

Stella Frost, manager of the 3.30 Fun Club, which is held for two hours after school each weekday, said: "Some of our pupils entered a nationwide design competition to design a picture on the theme of songbirds and out of more than 1,300 entries, Erin Thain from our club won first prize in her age group."

RIGHT: Erin with her prize of felt pens

Anti-fracking campaigner chosen to stand for Labour in borough elections

AN anti-fracking campaigner has been chosen as the Labour candidate for Halsall in the forthcoming West Lancashire Borough Council elections.

Maureen Mills has been actively involved in the community of Halsall for many years, having served as a parish councillor for six years, including four years as chair.

She has also been involved in a number of projects including the production of the Halsall Parish Plan and then worked on the traffic group borne out of this plan.

An active member of the Halsall Against Fracking group, Maureen is also a keen supporter of the rural community and has voiced concerns about the disadvantages they face, in particular elderly isolation due to cuts to local transport budgets, as well as sustainable resources and flooding.

Maureen Mills

She said: "I will be running a very transparent campaign seeking a clear mandate from local people to represent their concerns.

"Residents of Halsall are rightly concerned by the threats of fracking in the area, increased development in the green belt, flooding of homes, businesses and farmland, and decimation of local transport services leading to rural and elderly isolation.

"In me, residents will get a local who wishes to represent their needs and voice their concerns to the Labour-controlled administration at West Lancashire who see all these issues as borough-wide concerns.

"Over the coming months residents will continue to see more and more of me and I look forward to gaining all the support I can muster to win this seat and get on with the job of representing Halsall with all my energy and enthusiasm."

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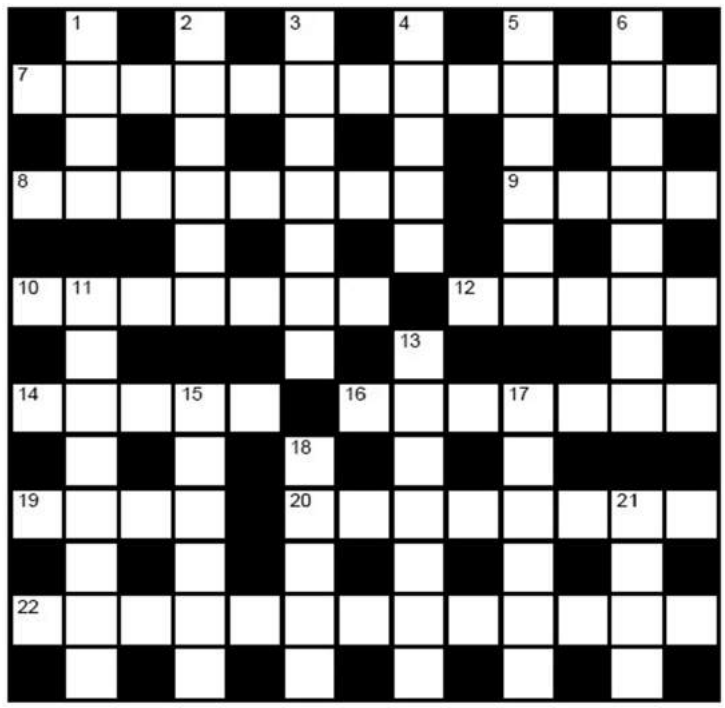

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Gazebo. 8 U-boats. 9 Anti. 10 Tangible. 11 Mystify. 13 Hence. 15 Proxy. 17 Banshee. 20 Immature. 21 Cage. 22 Enmesh. 23 Larynx.

Down: 1 Mainly. 2 Yeti. 3 Fortify. 4 Tunny. 5 Holiness. 6 Italic. 12 Taxpayer. 14 Patella. 16 Remand. 18 Engine. 19 Aught. 21 Curd.

ACROSS

7 Brief storm accompanied by heavy rain (13)
8 Drainage system (8)
9 Woody perennial plant typically having a trunk and branches (4)
10 Channel for conveying fluids (7)
12 An aspect of 120 degrees (one third of a circle) (5)
14 Accent placed over the letter 'n' in Spanish (5)
16 Stain made by writing fluid (7)
19 Catch sight of (4)
20 Intermittently (2,3,3)
22 Electrical hand tool used to fuse metals (9,4)

DOWN

1 Clarified butter used in Indian cooking (4)
2 Word used to emphasise or confirm a statement (6)
3 Made of clay and permanently hardened by heat (7)
4 Person who shows people to their seats at a cinema or wedding (5)
5 Scoundrel, rogue (6)
6 (Archaic) To this document (8)
11 Something that has been left out (8)
13 Strange or mysterious (7)
15 Tree-dwelling nymphs in Greek mythology (6)
17 One-roomed accommodation (6)
18 Fleshy, typically large fruit with a hard skin (5)
21 To punish someone by beating them with a whip (4)

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Billionaire Bill Gates visits Everton FC's Finch Farm for Sport Relief

Microsoft chief watched Blues being put through their paces at training ground as part of a joint visit to Liverpool to raise awareness of the fight against Malaria and other global diseases

Report by **Tom Martin**

ANY new face who arrives at a football club during the transfer window is bound to cause excitement – and Everton were delighted to welcome billionaire businessman Bill Gates to watch a training session!

The American co-founder of Microsoft was joined by Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne with the pair being invited to watch the first team squad being put through their paces at Finch Farm.

The event was aimed at raising awareness for this year's Sport Relief which is due to take place in March.

Bill Gates' charity, The Gates Foundation, is a long-term partner of Comic Relief and Sport Relief.

Mr Gates has agreed to match any funds raised this year by Sport Relief for the 'Global Fund to Fight AIDS TB and Malaria', a partner that provides half of all international funding for malaria worldwide.

The visit to Everton's Finch Farm was part of a joint trip to Liverpool where Mr Gates and Chancellor Osborne saw first-hand how the city is helping lead the fight against global diseases like malaria.

Mr Gates said: "Malaria is one of the most devastating diseases in the world.

"But with the leadership and commitment of the people in Britain, I am optimistic that we can win this fight.

"I want to encourage everyone to sign-up to Sport Relief to help continue this Great British tradition."

Chancellor Osborne added: "It was great to visit Everton FC to see the great work they are doing in local communities in collaboration with Sport Relief.

"Sport Relief has already done brilliant things, but there's so much more to do to rid the world of this terrible disease.

"So my message is, please support Sport Relief, and together let's show malaria the red card."

Everton manager Roberto Martinez said: "It has been a fantastic opportunity to welcome Bill Gates and George Osborne to Everton.

"The work we do in the community is very important to us as a club and Everton are really proud to be supporting Sport Relief this year.

"It's great to be involved in an amazing initiative that gets people active and raises money, not only to help kids here in Liverpool but also to fight devastating diseases such as malaria in some of the world's poorest communities."

Bill Gates with George Osborne

(L-R) Roberto Martinez, Tim Howard, Bill Gates, George Osborne, Arouna Kone and Phil Jagielka at Everton's Finch Farm Training Ground

Forthcoming Events

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3 Course Carvery

£15.50 Adult

£8.00 Children under 10

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Champion ENTERTAINMENT

Dean to bring beloved swamp-dwelling ogre to Salford's The Lowry

ORMSKIRK'S Dean Chisnall is bringing the beloved swamp-dwelling ogre Shrek to The Lowry this February.

Shrek The Musical will be at The Lowry from Tuesday, February 2 to Saturday, February 20.

Dean played the role of Shrek in the West End and also starred as Gary Barlow in the musical Never Forget at the Savoy and on tour.

Damsel in distress, Princess Fiona, will be played by Bronté Barbé from Macclesfield in Cheshire. Bronté was selected as one of the final 10 in Andrew Lloyd Webber's search for 'Dorothy' in the 2010 BBC 1 reality TV show Over the Rainbow. Bronté previously played the role of Little Red Riding Hood in Shrek The Musical, before being promoted to the lead role of Princess Fiona.

Dean and Bronté join continuing cast members Idriss Kargbo, as Shrek's wisecracking sidekick Donkey, and Gerard Carey as pint-sized villain Lord Farquaad.

Shrek The Musical is directed by Nigel Harman. Nigel makes his directing debut with the UK and Ireland Tour of Shrek The Musical but is widely known as an actor in theatre, film and television.

Nigel began his work with Shrek playing Lord Farquaad in the Theatre Royal Drury Lane production of the musical. For this role Nigel won the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Supporting Performance in a Musical and Theatregoers' Choice Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Musical.

Nigel is well known for having played the role of Dennis Rickman in BBC's EastEnders from 2003 to 2005.

Bronté Barbé as Princess Fiona, Dean Chisnall as Shrek

Shrek The Musical was originally directed by Jason Moore.

Theatre Company has new home

AFTER nearly a year without a home Ormskirk Theatre Company has found a new venue -The Toby at Ormskirk Fiveways.

To celebrate, Ormskirk Theatre Company want to invite event and charity organisers to apply for free tickets to their Murdernight Showcase on February 26.

This will be held in the function room at the Toby and include a carvery supper.

OTC want to demonstrate how their Murdernights work for those people who may be thinking of planning an event to raise funds for their charity or organisation in the future.

Tickets are free for up to four people from a group but extras can be bought at £10 each.

The cast of Ormskirk Theatre Company

OTC will be kicking off their season with a Valentine's Night quiz on February 12, also to be held in the function room at the Toby. The questions will all be 'Valentine' related so residents who want to come should start swatting up now!

Pat Baker of OTC said: "The manager of The Toby at Ormskirk Fiveways, Annette, has been very welcoming, and says she is looking forward to holding many events in the function room this year.

"She has already booked OTC for a Halloween Murdernight. Watch for this being advertised later in the year."

For more details or to order your tickets you can contact Pat on 07563 724814 or visit the OTC website: www.ormskirktheatrecompany.co.uk

henry.james@champnews.com

Advertising Feature 2016

Aughton Male Voice Choir's Annual Open evening will take place at the choir's normal Monday evening rehearsal on the 1st February from 7.30pm at The Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane, Aughton L39 5DH.

If you can hold a tune and enjoy singing we would like to meet with you. We don't hold formal auditions nor require you to be able to read music, but we do offer great camaraderie and a varied social side. This is a unique opportunity to ask questions, listen to a rehearsal, join in and sing some songs. Song sheets will be available. You will know after a few weeks if it's for you. While we are hoping to recruit gents into all sections of our choir, in particular we are looking for gentlemen who can perform in our Tenor areas.

2015/16 has been another exciting year. It commenced with the open evening generating a 10% increase in membership, and a very welcome number of now younger members. We have performed over ten concerts and we held our Choir annual dinner at Hurlston Hall Golf Club in November.

Over the last two years the choir has, in musical performance terms, taken great strides forward, thanks to the efforts of our Musical Director and our Accompanist. Not only are we singing to our audiences, but they are singing our praises.

We have already received four bookings for 2016 concerts and are currently in the process of arranging a continental tour to Germany in September of one weeks duration. Plans are well in hand to perform some 12 to 15 concerts throughout 2016. It is also our intention through the "getmensinging" banner to promote awareness and support for the prostate cancer programmes.

We estimate we have helped various charities throughout 2015 to raise in excess of £5,000, plus helping support Southport Rugby Club smash the record for the longest played match and to raise over £35,000 for Alder Hay charities. But we shall not be sitting on our laurels as we plan the 2016 programme. **Why not come and be part of it and enjoy the moments?**

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Celebrate in Style this Valentines

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Enjoy a delicious 3 course meal from chef's special Valentine's menu for only £25 per person!

Valentines menu available Friday 12th, Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th February 2016 after 5pm only.

(£10 deposit per table required to secure bookings.)

(Please note all deposits are non refundable or transferable)

View our menu online at www.ruffordarms.com or call one of our team on 01704 822040.

WHY BOTHER GETTING A TAXI HOME?

Treat the one you love to a romantic overnight stay

Book into one of our sumptuous king sized or twin bedded rooms, enjoy a delicious 3 course meal from our Valentine's menu & round off your stay with a full English breakfast cooked fresh to order for only

£60 per person!

(Based on two sharing. £10 deposit per person required per person to secure room bookings)

Valentine's offer only available when booking direct with one of the team on 01704 822040.

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT FRIDAY 26TH FEBRUARY

WITH FABULOUS

KINGS OF SWING & ROCK N ROLL CHRIS STEWART

REGULAR FEATURES

LUNCH TIME TREAT

From a light bite to an indulgent 2 course lunch prices starting from as little as **£6.99**

Evening table d'hote menu - sample Chef's monthly selection of dishes from only £15.99 for 2 courses.

TREAT THE FAMILY THIS SUNDAY

Delicious 2-course Sunday lunch from only **£13.99**

Served 12 - 9pm

Great to relax after a hectic weekend... Plus no arguments over the washing up!

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ANGEL LODGE
Kirkby Industrial est, off the M57 East Lancs Road. Open 7 days a week, 10:30am to 8pm,*Free secure parking* Quiet & Discreet *Days Available* Taylor is back in the lodge on a Wednesday! 01515463264

BIKES

BANSHEE SPORTS bike, Shimano 24 gear, duel suspension £50. Fancy fire guard with tea light decor, £20 ono. 01695 623342

RIDGEBACK world voyage tourer, 52cm frame, altura panniers, front rack, hardly used, lights, SPD pedals, computer £500. 07517 531021

CLOTHING

BLACK SUEDE boots 3/4 length 2ins heels fur lined exc cond £15 for quick sale 07821417560

BAG OF larkfield girls uniform from age 6 good cod £15 01704 536891

GIRLS SHOES boots wellies trainers from size 12 up £4 each 01704 536891

GIRLS COATS mostly from next age 4 to 7 and above very good cond £5 each 01704 536891

HEAVY GENTS black leather coat, ex con, hardly worn £40 01695 574806

WANTED Mans white tuxedo jacket, 42" chest, medium/long fitting 01704 222997

LADIES COAT New three quarter length, which has never been worn black winter coat size 12, bargain £15.00 07530562650

GREY SUEDE rocket dogg boots size5 3/4 length 2ins heels, laced up fronts, fur lined, exc cond £25 for quick sale 07821417560

GENUINE UGG boots black leather size6 fur lined buckle detail excellent condition £75 07821417560

AMERICAN AUTHENTIC Schott flight jacket type, CWU-R MIL-J-3119GN USAF Schott Bros Inc, £50 01695 574806

BENCH JACKET never worn ladies small Bench jacket with detachable fur sleeves was £150 sell for£30 07444847695

HELLY HANSEN boys black hooded jacket ideal for school size 176/16 bargain £15 immaculate 01515319425-07773242918

GENTS SUIT Nice suit from Next 40" regular jacket 34" waist 29" leg, genuine reason for selling, small neat pinstripe, colour dark grey/black. £25.00 07530562650

GENTS SHIRTS AND FLEECE SIX NICE GENTS SHIRTS ALL 15.5 COLLAR, ALL GOOD MAKES, TWO WITH LONG SLEEVES, ALSO ONE NICE LARGE SIZED ZIPPED FLEECE. £20.00 07530562650

COMPUTING

COMPUTER DESK 2 sliding shelves, £10. 01695 421933

COMPUTER MONITOR AOC E2250SWDNK LED 21.5" Resolution 1920 x 1080 Brand new, unused & boxed. RRP £89.99 Bargain at £60. 07586 294379

DIY

TOOL TEC hammer drill £10 01704 892586

BASE PANELS concrete x13 £40 6ft 0732396501

WASH BASIN in cupboard unit and taps, £50. 01695 421933

CONCRETE PANELS for fence rock effect 6ftx12inch 07932396501

PAIR OF upvc white porch double glazed doors, good condition with frame, keys, size approx 37"w 78.5"h £50. 07761 479792

GARDENING

PATIO CLEANER power craft, brand new, fits on to your pressure washer, £15 01695 421933

STONE SEAT large piece of natural stone could be used as a garden seat approx 44" x 20" x 16" high £80.00 01515202319

WANTED Greenhouse in good condition. Size around 6'x8'. Will consider any offers 07884186171

HOBBIES

ARTISTS PASTELS pencils, paper, books, dvd's - job lot £40. 01704 895415

HOBBIES

40 LITRE aqua roll, water container with handle as new £30 Southport 214498

TENT - DISCOVER 3 person freedom trail slumbalux, used once £34. Insulated camping carry mat £4. 07968 599990

NEW WILSON distance golf clubs left handed 3-4 irons £10 each bargain 01515319425-07773242918

BEACH CASTOR rods 12ft £10. 10ft £10. Boat/pier rods £10. Tripods (2) £10. New Daiwa uptide rod £25. 01704 574986

DOLLS HOUSE Georgian 5 storey high inc attic and basement, fully decorated with carpets, wallpaper and lights, ex con £150. 07912 749312

TELESCOPE Reflector F70076 6 months old only used for GCSE astronomy course. Includes stand , several lenses. Boxed, full instructions £55 01704 875299

JIGSAW PUZZLES Numerous 1000 piece and some 500 piece jigsaws, all in good condition and complete, £3 each 01704 231007

JIGSAWS 18 jigsaws each 1000 pieces various topics including scenes/animals/comedy etc. boxed good condition Bargain £1 each 01704 220356

FRESH WATER fishing Daiwa 12ft rod, reel, Shakespeare 12ft rod, actio reel, tackle, floats, feeder, bait pulls, bank sticks, £37.50 the lot 01704 574986

CARAVAN PORCH awning, Inaca Stardust, 200cm steel frame, instruction, skirt, pegs, straps, curtains, £100 ono. 0151 9284468

EPIPHONE GUITAR Epiphone Les Paul special II electric guitar in vintage sunburst. New, unused cost £139 will accept £90 ono 07811 595326

FLUVAL SPEC AQUARIUM, 19ltr with molded cover, 20" L, 12" H, 7" W, LED light unit with blue night light, built-in pump and filter, carbon insert and Biomax, some extras, cost £75, accept £40. Tel. 01704 212816

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

RADIO MIC WITH FEEDS £45 o.n.o and Microphone with long lead £25. 0151 5231959

260 DVD'S plus 6 Blurays. £150. 01704 544163

TV AERIAL outside use can deliver £10.00 01515263851

TANNOY SPEAKERS Black 10" wide X 20" high as new £50.00 pair 0151 9246393

SAMSUNG 14" tv with built in video recorder, little used, sell £10. 0151 5264020

CARPENTER BUILT JBL 1000 watt 12 inch subwoofer, brand new, 25 x 18 x 16", home or stage £90 01695 627078

HOUSE AND HOME

LEATHER SUITE , white, 100% leather, brand new, cost £1900. sell £850 0151 9201813

MIRRORED WARDROBE DOORS

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HOUSE AND HOME

PLATES (CHARGER) Gold 8 off never used £7.00 0151 9246393

HALL CONSOLE and sideboard, antique style, rosewood, ex con, £40 for both. 01704 894338

SET OF 5 drawer pine effect drawers, modern, vgc, £35. 07851 192684

HOSTESS TROLL Dark wood effect, good working order. £25 07475456433

MARBLE HEARTH Beige and cream in colour £10 07475456433

NEXT CURTAINS 2x135cmx-137cmL £20 each+ door curtain£30 07932396501

4 HEARTH RUGS £15 each 1 metre diameter 5cm thick pile red 07932396501

LAURA ASHLEY large gold mirror, ex con, was £300 new, sell for £130 0151 5200590

RECLINER CHAIR wanted good condition, OAP, manual 0151 9289380

CREAM LEATHER 3 seater settee and armchair, ex con, buyer collects £150 01704 567993

BEIGE LEATHER 3/4 coat, unwanted gift, size 12, accept £70 ono 0151 9209581

LEATHER 3 seater sofa, one owner (perfect) £100. 01695 723374

DFS SOFA 3 seater, tan colour, vgc £95. Glass TV stand £20. 07786 298207

PIANO Acoustic mini minx piano, good condition requires a good home. £250ono 01704576553

MICROWAVE COMBINATION Microwave, grill and bake. White, good working order. 800w £20.00 o.n.o. 01695 724931

HIGH BACKED winged fireside chairs, one pale green, one beige leaf print, from Stokers, immaculate. £50 each. 01704 546833

HALL TABLES Semi Circular Hall / Landing Tables with Glass inserts, Light Oak Finish, Can Deliver £80.00 07795 332604

METAL ANTIQUE gold double headboard, 2 years old, paid £150. Sell for £50. 0151 4762642

JOHN LEWIS 6 bottle wine cooler cabinet, H 87cm D47cm W15cm, ex con £30 07926 335212

6 PINE panel colonial interior doors, solid mahogany stained with brass fittings, £40 ono. Collection only. 07957 011849

STOVES gas hob, only used 18 months, £80. Red velvet headboard £25, selling due to bereavement. 07594 604523

SOLID WOOD double wardrobe with 2 storage drawers, vgc, must be able to collect. £75 ono. 07855 261385

MAHOGANY MIRROR Cathedral arch approx. 40 inch high 20 inch wide good quality (from Stokers) £25 07809 493028

MAHOGANY MIRROR Cathedral arch mirror approx 40inch high 22inch wide good quality from stokers 07809 493028

STANDARD LAMP Mahogany with three claw feet, large cream shade, antique style. £35.00 0151 9246393

BATHROOM MIRROR With lights, will need a new wire as we cut to take from the wall cost £80 SELL for £10 07475456433

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HOUSE AND HOME

DINING TABLE Part tiled extending dining table with 4/6 chairs. Modern light wood finish. Snip at £80. 01704 578176

TIFFANY hanging light shade complete with fittings, brand new condition, cost new £95. £45. 01704 877420

CORNER CUPBOARD glass door top wood door bottom £20. Table & chairs set £30. 07761 479792

THREE SEATER leather sofa, square arms, vgc, one person owner, give away price £100. 01605 723374

6 PIECE bedroom/bedsit suite, modern design, little used, £250 ono. Phone for more details 01704 532347

HOTPOINT FRIDGE 10 years old, vgc £15. Norweb freezer, 10 years old, vgc £15. 07544 036210

5 MIRRORED door wardrobes 8ft 2ins £40. Gents tan leather jacket, 42 chest, £40. 01704 893942

UPVC FRONT door and frame, 6'6 x 2'6 complete with lock, keys, letterbox, white, £90. Buyer collects 0789 4159994

ELECTRIC FIRE suite, ornate walnut surround, cream tiles, brass fire, coal effect, £100 ono. 0151 5265948

CORNER BATH white corner bath. never used. refurbishing bathroom. condition excellent. £50.00 01695 322111

UNDER WORKTOP fridge and freezer, 7 weeks old, receipts can be shown, £130 ono for both. 01695 721151

HOUSE AND HOME

LAP BLANKET Chinese red colour, tassel edging. 127x180cm. Cost £45, selling for £20. 01515466207

ELECTRIC BLANKET under blanket to fit double bed. 3 heat settings. Bargain at £10. 01515466207

TABLE LAMP ex John Lewis, New Black smoked glass stem, Black silk shade. Cost £108. Selling for £50 01514366207

CHANDELIER Cream chandelier light fitting with glass teardrops, approximately 60 cm in lovely condition. £25 01695424797

DINING TABLE Beech wood extending dining table and 6 padded bottom chairs in excellent condition. £80 01695424797

3 SEATER Recently bought 3 seater fabric sofa. Mink colour. Excellent condition. £125 01704 889256

HEADBOARD OAK wood for double bed excellent condition from John Lewis £80.00 o.n.o. 01515318055

2 SOFAS Less than 3 months old.(Rio/SofaSofa) Biscuit fabric 2x2 seaters. Ex cond. £200 01704 889256

FLOOR LAMP Crystal,led lights,dimmer switch,5ft tall,3 months old,paid £180 from taskers sell for £60 07595450940

FREEZER White under counter freezer, 82 cm high x 54 cm wide. Good working order, no scratches or marks. £30.00 ono 01695 724931

2 EXTERIOR wooden doors (4 panels glazed), 29.75 x 78". 3 white wooden doors, 2 30x77.5", 1 29.75x77". £20ono 01704 831907

HOUSE AND HOME

WANTED cast iron fireplace, consider with or without tiles (not bedroom size). For Sale: almost new 13 chrome stair rods £25 07948 099696

SOLID TEAK cabinet 6'H 4'W with drop down cocktail shelf, glass display lighting, 3 drawers, 2 door cupboard, ex con, £80. 01704 546833

DINING ROOM Extending Traditional Oval Table, Dark Wood Finish with 4 Chair and 2 carvers, Buyer to Collect £180.00 07795 332604

OFFICE DESK Including Chair Light Oak 6 Feet long x 2 Feet 8 Inches Wide, 3No draws either side Buyer to Collect £75.00 07795 332604

REPRODUCTION small piece of furniture, good quality, reddy-brown colour, top shelf, drawer with 2 shelves underneath £20 07851 192684

MODERN CREAM good quality wardrobe (double), ex con, surplus to requirement, 30" wide, nice piece of furniture £45 07851 192684

100% WOOL rug, new, RRP £155, sell £85. Mink shade by Plantation. Solid wood cot bed, Mothercare cost £220, sell £75. 07594 603523

WHITE BATH B shaped bath, left hand,1700 x 750mm including taps, side panel & Curved Glazed Shower Screen, Buyer to Collect £125.00 07795 332604

FLOOR LAMP Antique brass floor lamp with swing arm action to position light /shade. 54 inches high Perfect condition £35 01515202319

LARDER FRIDGE White, height 140 cm x 60 cm, 4 shelves, clean, no scratches, good working order. £40 o n o. 01695 724931

CARPET(RUG) 6x4 ft wool from M&S cream with splashes of pale green and beige cost £150.00 as new £50.00 0151 9246393

SUITE For sale - 3 piece suite includes 3 seater settee, terracotta with gold pattern. Cushions & armrest protectors. Good condition. £120. 07928256667

LEATHER SUITE Dark red colour, 3 seater settee & 2 matching chairs, wood trimming, vg condition, buyer collections. £95 ono 01704 533218

HOUSE AND HOME

SINGLE HEADBOARD grey metal for 3ft bed with round top excellent condition like new used on spare bed Bargain £10 01704 220356

LAURA ASHLEY beautiful Superking Duvet cover and 4 pillowcases used but in VGC. Dusky pink with velvet trim. £45 01704 562132

DANISH DINING TABLE AND 4 CHAIRS, BEECH FINISH, CREAM LEATHER CHAIRS, COST £1600 (STOKERS). £350 (FORMBY) 01704 877420

SINGLE BED divan, very clean £12. Cream double duvet cover and pillowcases, £10 ono. 2 kitchen chairs, wicker seats £12 pair. 01704 821597

BATHROOM UNIT bathroom vanity unit - white. 750 x 500. Also includes hand basin and taps. Good condition.£50.00 01695 322111

VANITY UNIT White bathroom vanity unit. Has drawers and cupboards. size 750x500 Good condition. £50.00 01695 322111

KING DUCKDOWN feather duvet, dry cleaned as new £25. King mattress topper, dry cleaned, ex con £20. 2 new pillows £5. 01704 461042

CONSERVATORY CANE suite, 2 seater, 1 chair, large footstool, glass top coffee table £49. Beige double wardrobe, ex cond. £25. 01704 546833

PAIR OF high backed winged chairs, one light green, one beige print from Stokers, immaculate condition. £50 each, can deliver locally 01704 546833

SOLID TEAK unit 6' h, 4'2" w with drop down cocktail cabinet, drawers, cupboard £90. Teak effect corner display cabinet £40 01704 546833

ROTARY AIR dryer. New 60 Metre Brabantia, Lift o Matic with concrete anchor. Cost £179 from John Lewis. Selling for £100. 01515466207

BATHROOM SHELVES free floor standing glass and chrome 3 shelf unit approx 30cm square and 80 cm high - £10 01695424797

SINGLE HEADBOARDS Two single headboards in light grey velvet type material, both in excellent condition. £40 01695424797

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- EPC Grade C
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- EPC Grade D
- *DEPOSIT £795.00*

£695pcm **AINTREE**

ALTWAY

- 2 Bedroom first floor spacious apartment with independent entrance on ground floor.
- EPC Grade D
- Newly fitted quality carpets throughout
- All major appliances included within modern kitchen.
- Apartment includes gas central heating, UPVc double glazed windows and blinds right through.
- Large open living room.
- Floor area 89m^2.
- NIC EIC Electrically approved.
- *DEPOSIT £625.00*

£525pcm **AINTREE**

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HOUSE AND HOME

ROMAN BLIND ruched in cream 4 feet wide brand new still in box from Dunelm cost £30 accept £12 o.n.o. can deliver 01515263851

DISPLAY UNIT Free but must collect from Upholland. Three drawers, cupboard, shelves and glass display area. Mahogany wood. 01695625057

TABLE SET Beautiful Cleopatra oval glass top coffee table with round glass side table, first to see will buy £80 ono 01695 726143

READERS DIGEST Books. Large hardback editions. Various titles. Most over 200 pages. Excellent condition. Cost over £25 each. All 10 for £30 01704 553972

COMPLETE KITCHEN Fridge/freezer, freezer, gas hob, double oven, all oak doored units, large display cabinet, breakfast bar and 4 oak chairs £800 017048 77728

CANE CONSERVATORY suite, 2 seater settee, chair, large footstool, glass topped coffee table £48. Teak effect corner glass display cabinet, £40. 01704 546833

DINING TABLE Farmhouse kitchen/dining table, circular extends to oblong, seats up to six. Solid wood inlaid with terracotta ceramic tiles. Beautiful £50 07967688230

SOLID OAK Dining table and 6 high back chairs with matching side board all in immaculate condition cost over£1800 only selling due to house move. will accept £450 for quick sale 07729991241

MIRROR Cost new £120, bevelled edged approximately 63" high by 17" wide, in a nice gilt wooden frame. Lovely condition can be hung either horizontally or vertically. £35.00 07530562650

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KARL LAGERFELD 150ml perfumed body lotion new sealed bargain £15 01515319425-07773242918

DOUBLE AIRBED Hardly used in excellent condition. Ideal for weekend guests or camping £10 01704 875299

SLENDERTONE PADS slendertone extra facial pads 3 packs of 12 cost £60 sell for £5 07444847695

DKNY WOMENS PERFUME 100ML used a few times bargian £15 01515319425-07773242918

10,000 LUX SAD light box £20. Gigaworks computer speakers T20ii Series (new) £25. Fellowes power shredder P-48C £20. Old Skelmersdale 01695 550506

MISC

CALOR GAS 7KG calor gas bottle empty. Ideal for camping/caravan. Save a fortune on the deposit for a new bottle. £15 01704 875299

COSTUMES 2 male Egyptian costumes with head dress, and 2 Ladies with 1 head dress Ideal for a fancy dress £30 ono 01695 728281

SLENDERTONE ABS Hardly used Slendertone Abs & Bottom with storage bags, controllers, extra pads cost £350 will sell for £90 07444847695

WANTED GOPRO hero 4 black or silver with accessories can pay upto £150 depending on condition / extras and age cash oncollection 07743101819

IPHONE 4S 32gb mint immaculate covered since new white Inc charger and box priced to go no offers 1st to see will buy£120 0751829646

READERS DIGEST Books. Large hardback editions. Various titles. Most over 200 pages. All excellent condition. Cost £25 each. All 10 for £30 01704 553972

RECORDS WANTED indie, rock & roll, 60's pop and beat, rock, folk, punk etc. Bought for cash. Cigarette & bubble gum cards also bought. 01704 566210 after 6pm

MOBILITY

MOBILITY SCOOTER as new. Elite GEO 8 Plus 8 mph. Only 14 months old. Genuine reason for sale. Comes with cover and bag and charger. Cost £3000 new. £800 ONO 01695 728246

WANTED freerider westminster mobility scooter, any condition 01257 450046

FEBER TABLE childrens table turns over into seesaw £45 07932396501

MOBILITY SCOOTER pride ago go, new batteries, new condition, £220 ono. 0151 5269315

BATH CHAIR lift as new, only 3 months old, was £499. Only £230. Remote control, battery charger included. 01695 721109

WALKING STICK stand in rose wood holds 6 sticks measures 50 x 47 x 18cm. New boxed £10 01704 220356

RASCAL MOBILITY scooter with full rain canopy, ex con, large stable base, new battery. Offers over £500. 07531008811 01704116141

ROLLATOR heavy duty blue rollator large seat four wheels with brakes suit larger person little used like new Bargain £75 cost£125 01704 220356

MOBILITY SCOOTER 'Rascal', large size complete with full rain canopy, blue metallic, new battery, serviced. Offers over £500. 01704226141 07531008811

FOOT MASSAGER relieves fatigue and aches in legs 99 intensity settings and 56 modes includes remote/instructions/pads boxed like new Bargain £50 01704 220356

SHOOTING STICK traditional shooting/walking stick 35in changeable rubber ferrule to spike for soft ground New Unused Bargain £30 01704 220356

TROLLEY disability aid, wheeled trolley with 2 shelves £55. Perching stool with back, ergonomic professional design, adjustable height, £25. Excellent condition 01704 874189

LOWZONE CUSHION absorbs shock and reduces pressure, 17x17x14", wipe clean cover, professional high quality, brand new still in wrapper £55 01704 874189

MOBILITY SCOOTER Booster 3 wheel 8mph.Large tyres,lights,basket,good battery with charger.Good condition. £295.Promenade.(can deliver locally) 01704533885

MOBILITY

ULTRALITE SCOOTER Ultralite red mobility scooter, excellent condition. Used 4 times then stored. Fully collapsible & light. No longer needed. £200 07540321872

MOTHER AND BABY

MAMAS PAPAS baby bath, very clean, £5. 01704 892586

RED SHOES infant size 6.5E as new £12 0793236501

HIGHCHAIR from argos vgc as new splayed legs 07932396501

BLUE GRACO travel cot in carry bag, £15 01695363324 07725984013

MOTHERCARE TODDLER Bed with mattress 140 X 70cms hardly used £70.00 0151 9240034

QUALITY BABY carrier harness with carrier bag, hood cover for sun or rain fits up to 2 years £25 01519240034

PHILIPS AVENT bottle steriliser, used twice, as new £10. Tommy Tippee bottle warmer £5. 07881 752995

FISHER-PRICEWALKER Helps baby's first steps. Wide wheel base and sturdy handle make it easy for baby to toddle. Perfect condition £20 07815769264

BABY GATE LindamEasy fit plus. Pressure fit. Squeeze and lift handle for one-handed opening. 75cm(h). Fits openings 75 to 82cm.£15 07815769264

MAMAS PAPAS wooden cot with matching table top changer, both good condition with instructions. £75 ono, mattress included if required. 07855 261385

GRANNYS PRAM Mamas Papas pram / push chair combine sprung chassis Navy /pale blue Very good condition £75 01704 896679

TODDLER BEDS one in blue, other in veneer, ex con with all bedding, only used a few times by grandchildren, £35 each 07947 298179

COTBED and mattress excellent condition used occasionally at grandparents home. Pet and smoke free home. £70 01519249358

NURSERY HOMEWARE NEXT Hetty & Henry unisex items. Narrow width Curtains (139cm drop) with ties,pole with character ends, lampshade & art blocks.£25 07815769264

TRAVEL COT /playpen. Complete with mattress, bassinette, changing mat and carrying bag. Ideal to keep at granny's house. Excellent clean condition. £22 01704 560564

MOTORING

MAZDA RX8 alloy wheel and part worn tyre, unmarked, buyer collects £70 07704 030100

BMW SPACESAVER wheel & tyre, 16 inc, brand new, will fit both 3 + 1 series E46, £75 01704 874189

MOTORCYCLE JACKET and trousers, mens large, ladies large, hardly worn, £25 each suit. 01695 423731

PETS

WANTED M/F West Highland terrier age 2-7. Tel: 01704 567776

TEN METAL CAGES suitable for Chinchillas etc. average size 19 inch x 32 inch.£10 each.01695 573739

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01704 896 907

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FRONTLINE CAT flea treatment and prevention of flea and tick infestation, 6 pipettes, new £28 01704 546588

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

FISHING TACKLE rods, floats etc - Offers 07951 614694

YORK FITNESS bench, long bar, sets of weights could deliver £65 07771 702323

POOL /TABLE Pool/snooker fold up table complete V.G.C.£25 01695 420950

GOLF TROLLEY light weight hardly used easy fold bagain £10 01515319425 -07773242918

FOOTBALL BOOTS Adidas size 8, screw-in, unwanted present, never worn £25 0151 5310924

GOLF BAG and trolley with clubs may deliver £25.00 01515263851

FOOTBALL GOAL Full size metal football goal with net and weights to stabilise. £50 ono 01704 562132

GOLF CLUBS Ladies Graphite Woods/Irons/Trolley/Bag not had much use in VGC £40.00 07813808520

NEW WILSON distance golf clubs left handed 3 & 4 irons £10 each bargain 01515319425-07773242918

TOYS AND GAMES

DISNEY MOTORBIKE ride on push along disney princess£10 07932396501

CHILDREN'S POOL table with removable legs L93 H62 W44 £8 01704 536891

DOLLS HOUSES 1 for Barbie dolls, 3-4ft high. 1 solid wood, pink, 2 floors, attic for small dolls. Both £25 0151 2842286

HEELEYS size 4, black and red, unwanted gift, not worn £20. Flicker scooter, white and red, good condition £15. 01704 227218

TODDLER CHAIR Fisher Price Pink Musical Learning Chair comes with 3 modes of play (music, learning,imagination) and a five page storybook. £15 07815769264

WANTED

WANTED SKY BOXES Instant cash paid. 07946 299280

WANTED Records
Rock & Roll, 60's Pop & Beat, Folk, Rock, Indie, Punk etc
Bought for Cash
01704 566210
After 6pm

MODEL RAILWAYS
Dinky, Corgi & Steam Models
Prompt Cash Paid
Tel: 01704 822993
07824 552788

WANTED

LADY LIKES DOING car boots, anything bought inc, DVD's, old pens, bric-a-brac, tools, costume jewellery, leather handbags, perfumes, toiletries, watches, coins, medals, stamps and clothes, call Pauline. 07970 820899

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Ormskirk School
Wigan Road, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AT

Site Supervisor

£15,207 to £15,941 pro rata, Grade 3, SCP 11-13 **Ref: 157066**

Required asap, permanent, variable contract with minimum 20 hours and maximum 30 hours per week. Working pattern: evenings: 6pm to 10pm and weekends: 8.30am to 6pm

The Governors wish to appoint a Site Supervisor who, under the general guidance of the Assistant Premises Manager and/or Business Manager, will contribute to the smooth running of the school by carrying out a range of caretaking duties to the agreed quality standards. This will include security and supervision of the site and related equipment, and other caretaking duties such as porterage, cleaning and maintenance. The emphasis of this post will focus on either site supervision or handyperson activities. The balance of duties will be determined by the needs of the school.

Cleaner

£15,145 a year **Ref: 157084**

Required asap, permanent, part time contract, 12.5 hours per week. Term time only plus three weeks, £7.85 per hour. Grade 1, SCP 6, 13,614 pounds pro-rata, plus additional supplement in line with Living Wage which is 15,145 pounds pro rata.

The Governors wish to appoint a part time cleaner, who, under the direction of the Site Supervisor, will undertake the cleaning of designated areas within the school premises to ensure they are kept in a clean and hygienic condition, to the agreed quality standards. Required hours of work are: 3.30pm to 6pm, Monday to Friday. The contracts are for term time, plus three weeks during the school holidays, as directed by the Site Supervisor.

Interview dates: w/c 22 February 2016
Closing dates: 8 February 2016 at noon

Some schools are excluded as commitment is on an individual basis.

Lancashire County Council

Apply online at: **www.lancashire.gov.uk/vacancies**

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www.forrest-recruitment.co.uk

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Tel **01695 722960 www.warbreck.co.uk**

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Halsall St Cuthbert's C. Of E. Primary School
New Street, Halsall, Ormskirk, L39 8RR

Kidz Club Leader (temporary)

£12.00 an hour **Ref: 157046**

Required March 16 to March 17, for 12.00 hours a week (3:30 - 5:30 daily), term time only.
Candidates must: Have an understanding of Early Years provision. Love working with children. Be friendly and approachable. Be well organised and a good team player Be enthusiastic and committed. Have excellent communication skills. Have an exemplary record of attendance and punctuality. Our school has fabulous facilities and is located in a beautiful, semi-rural part of the world. You'll love it.
Interview date: 12 February 2016

Closing date: 8 February 2016

Some schools are excluded as commitment is on an individual basis.

Lancashire County Council

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Cleaners
required
Must have own transport. Good rate of pay. Mileage. Holiday Pay. Generous Bonus
Come and join our supreme team of hard working, conscientious staff. We are happy to train you to meet our standards. School friendly hours.
Call now for a chat 01695 578900

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required 20 hours per week
for a construction company in Latham
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for details of where to send your C.V.

First Steps Enterprise Ltd

We are looking to recruit the following vacancy based at First Steps Children's Centre (Farnborough Road Site)

Lead Early Years Practitioner

£8, rising to £8.50 pr hr after 12 weeks /
20 hrs per wk /initially Mar 16 to Mar 17 / term-time only

We are looking for an experienced, dynamic, motivated professional to lead and develop childcare sessions for the centre's 2-year-old childcare provision.
An early years/childcare qualification at level 3 will be required
We have a drop-in open morning at the centre site to find out more
9th February 2016, 10am-12noon

Application packs are on our website - **http://firststepsenterprise.co.uk/vacancies/**
An enhanced DBS will be undertaken for all positions
Closing date: 10am, 12th February 2016

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Please submit your c.v. for the attention of Mrs Gill Cory to **info@jcasolicitors.co.uk**
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PARBOLD
- *Round includes:* Bankside, Broadmead, Burnside, Eastdene, Northdene, Southdene, Westdene
- *Round includes:* Lindley Dr, The Common, The Green, Latham Ave, Tanfield Nook, Beacon Crossing

SCARISBRICK
- *Round includes:* Smithy Lane, Moorfield Lane

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Closing date 12/02/2016

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365 SUPPORT Focusing on Recovery

Established 2014, 365 Support provides quality supported accommodation and support to people with complex mental health, learning disabilities, autism spectrum disorder and physical disabilities, dual diagnosis.

SUPPORT WORKERS

Commencing during probation period at £12,574 pa (pro rata, FTE 35 hours per week) rising thereafter dependent upon service and qualifications

Aigburth, Knowsley, Sefton & Wirral

We are seeking to recruit full and part-time Support Workers that will contribute to the day to day activities and be actively involved in all aspects of service users' lives. Using the Recovery Model you will support service users to make informed choices and promote their independence. Your role will also include undertaking household tasks, personal support, planning, community activities and administration. You will work on a rota basis including evenings, sleep in duties and weekends.
Ideally you will have a Level 2 in Health and Social Care; if not you will be expected to work towards this. You will also have excellent communication skills and be able to work on your own initiative, organising and prioritising your workload accordingly. To support you in your new role we offer a full induction and on-going Learning and Development opportunities, including Mental Health specific approaches.

We also have* BANK SUPPORT WORKER *opportunities that adhere to the Support Worker role at £6.88 per hour as and when required.

Part-time
COMMUNITY SUPPORT WORKERS

£7.30 per hour • **Churchtown (Southport)**

To support Kimberley, a lady who suffers with dystonia and who is wheel chair bound. She is looking for people to have a laugh and a joke with and be understanding of her needs.
Support will be required mornings and evenings and at times in the week to assist with personal care including medication.
Kimberley has a small dog and has requested somebody who is 'pet friendly'.

Email Rachel.clarke@365support.org for application pack or contact 07506 746 980 to request

This position is subject to an enhanced Disclosure from the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS).
The closing date for completed applications is Friday 26th February 2016
We are committed to equal opportunities in employment and service delivery
365 Support Limited registered in England, registered number 08741470

JOBS Champion
WWW.JOBSCHAMPION.COM

Sunbeams Nursery at St John's Catholic Primary School

Temporary Nursery Manager

required from 4th April 2016, 32.5 hours a week term time only to cover maternity leave. £10/hour

The position will be for one year or until the return of the post holder. Essential qualification NVQ3 or equivalent.

Please see website or call into school for further details and application form.

Closing date
Friday 5th February at 12 noon.
Interviews Thursday 10th February.

For application pack email bursar@burscough.lancs.sch.uk

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Announcements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GUCLU Irene
(Formerly Rydings - Nee Freeman)

Louise and family would like to say thank you to all friends and neighbours for the thoughtful, kind and heartfelt expressions of sympathy given to them at the sad time of losing Irene. Everyone's love and support is so appreciated.
Thank you also for the generous donations given to the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation.
A special thank you to Rev. Martin Abrams for his support and lovely service and thank you to Carl Howard and his team at Howard's Funeral Directors for a very personal, professional and caring funeral.

CLANCY VERONICA

The family of the late Veronica Clancy would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy cards of condolence and donations received during their sad loss.
Special thanks to Father John for his kind and comforting ministrations and all who attended the Funeral Mass.
Also, special thanks to Bernadette and Richard for looking after Vera with loving care. All at Southport and Formby Hospital for the excellent care and to Broadbent and Seddons for their caring funeral arrangements.

PRAYERS

Novena

To be said every hour for nine consecutive hours and promise publication.

O God who has said, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you", I know, I seek, I ask that my prayers be answered (Request).

O God who has said, "All that you ask of the Father in My name will be granted" - I humbly and urgently request the Father in Thy name that my request be granted (Request).

O God who has said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my word shall not". Through the intercession of Mary Thy Most Holy Mother, I feel confident that my prayers will be answered (Request).

E K

DEATHS

CULSHAW JANE (Jenny)
21st January 2016
Aged 94 years

Beloved Wife of the late Joe, devoted Mum of Sandra, much loved Aunt of Bea, Pat and Billy and families. Service at Holy Family R.C. Church on Wednesday 3rd February at 10:30am followed by interment at Duke Street Cemetery. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for The Poor Clare Monastery (Hereford). Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

ROBINSON JIM
20th January 2016
Aged 88 years.

Much loved Husband of the late Eileen. Loving Dad to David, Lorraine and Carolyn, Father-in-law to Val, Pat and Andy, kind Grandad to Mike, Andrew, Jennie, Mary, Helen, Katie and Christine, Great Grandad to Alisha, Joshua, Amelia, James, Scarlett, Annie, Darcy and the late Lauryn.
He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 1st February at 11.20am. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for S.O.R.T. and Rosemere Cancer Foundation. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW Telephone: 01704 500086

DEATHS

DRAPER (NEE BAYBUTT) JOAN
19th January 2016, peacefully after a short stay in hospital

Beloved wife of the late Tom. Much loved mother of Jacqueline and mother-in-law of Peter. Loving Nanna of Jenny and Beverley. A proud great-grandmother to Oliver. Joan will be sadly missed by all her family and many friends. Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Friday 5th February 2016 at 12.15pm. Family flowers only please, but donations are being gratefully received by the family for the Salvation Army. Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU Tel 01704 897770.

LEESON ALAN JAMES
January 17th 2016
aged 70 years.

Devoted husband of Jen, much loved dad of Julie and Colin, father-in-law to David and Tracy, grandad of Ellie and Katie. He will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 29th January at 3:20pm. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for British Heart Foundation. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 19a Banastre Road, Southport, PR8 5AW. Telephone: 01704 500086.

DEATHS

GALLAGHER JULIE
20th January 2016
Aged 58 years

Loving Mum of Lee, Shaun, Andrew and Hayley, cherished Nan of Holly, Luke, Sean, Leighton and Carter. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service will take place at St Helens Crematorium on Thursday 28th January at 10.00am. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Cancer Research UK. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel: 01695 559868

GALLAGHER JULIE
20th January 2016

Gone far too soon, will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with Lee, Andrew, Shaun and Hayley and families. In our thoughts.

Sister In Law Julie

Emma, Ashlea and Shea and families.

GBNF

xxxx

GALLAGHER JULIE

20th January 2016

There are no words to say how devestated we feel.

You will always be remembered with love and affection.

Rest in peace love, Mother in law Irene, Sister in law Julie and brother in law Stephen and families.

xxx

BIRTHDAY MEMORIAMS

SUSAN NEED OUR SUE
28/1/1932

Wish I'd told you more often that I cared and loved the happy times we shared. Always loved and missed. Your Sister Mary and Nieces Tracy, Julie-Ann and Dawn-Lee xx

DEATHS

GALLAGHER JULIE
20th January 2016

You were loved and will be sadly missed by us all. Brothers Gary and Andrew, 'Sister' Bev, and Nephews Callum and Josh. Rest In Peace
xxxxx

WALMSLEY BERNARD
passed away at home in New Zealand.
8th January 2016
Aged 82.

Loved and sadly missed by his wife and 4 children and many Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.
In New Zealand his home for 61 years a brother, Uncle and Nephew.
Rest in Peace your loving family.
Missed but not forgotton.
xxx

MEADOWS JUNE
14th January 2016.

Much loved mum to Amy and sister to Eileen.
Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

You left us with beautiful memories.
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Funeral Service and Committal will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Thursday 4th February 2016 at 11.30am.
Family flowers only please, but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Animals in Need and Anxiety UK (www.anxietyuk.org.uk).
Further enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU
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11848	20966
22540	15008

PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2015/1276/FUL Erection of poultry unit with associated feed binds and handstandings at Hobcross Farm, Hobcross Lane, Lathom.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2015/0957/FUL Excavation to create new steps in garden down to existing basement. Form new opening and fit door at 17 Chorley Road, Hilldale.

Application No: 2016/0024/FUL Flood defence wall and replacement septic tank at 29 Briars Brook, Lathom.

Application No: 2016/0050/LBC Listed Building Consent - Ground floor extensions and internal alterations at Needless Inn Farm, Lady Alices Drive, Lathom.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's web site www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to the Planning Division, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI
Assistant Director Planning

Dated: 27th January 2016
PDNOT882

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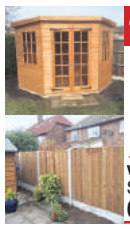

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Why James May is the greatest of the former Top Gear presenters

Life On Cars
DAVID SIMISTER
www.lifeoncars.blogspot.com

ABOUT a year ago I had confirmation of something most car nuts suspect.

Given the choice of a quiet evening, your local pub and any of the former Top Gear trio to go for a drink with, chances are you'd pick James May.

It was at a press conference in London where he was announcing a display bringing together his favourite pioneering automobiles, but being a busy TV presenter he had time to field just two questions from the assembled journalists.

I can't recall what the first question was but I definitely remember holding my hand up like a teacher's pet with the second on the tip of my tongue – if he was going to do it again in ten years' time, would his choices have changed?

I was looking forward to hearing him contemplate whether the car industry had stopped belting game-changing cars, but instead his PR man picked someone who genuinely asked 'Did you get back from Argentina alright?'

There was a brief awkward silence at the stupidity of the question, but the Top Gear presenter who'd clearly made it back Buenos Aires just fine just smiled politely and gave a thoughtful intelligent answer that took the mickey out of Jeremy Clarkson.

More often than not he's motoring's voice of reason.

That's why seeing his Cars of the People back on the air was such a breath of fresh air, particularly at a time when the tabloids are photographing every car Chris Evans gets in or out of.

Given he'd rounded off the last series by neatly supposing the ultimate car of the people is the Volkswagen Golf I had been wondering what ground hadn't already been covered, but last Sunday's episode was a genuinely fascinating bit of social history, exploring how Japan had swiped the car market from right under America's nose.

The journey with three Detroit car experts discussing the city's downfall from a Ford Mustang II was genuinely educational stuff.

Best of all was the gentle ribbing of the car usually fêted as everything wrong with our own car industry.

James could've done with the Austin Allegro what he did with the 2CV in the last series – when he pummelled it with machine gun fire, in the name of TV entertainment – but he didn't.

I will definitely be tuning in for this Sunday's episode.

I'm glad James made it back alright.

Have you got a story to tell or know somebody that does? Why not get in touch with our news desk via 01704 392 401 or email editorial@champnews.com

How BMW took on Triumph in he 1970s was one of the themes of the first episode

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Four wheel drive option available on smaller sibling model from this April

THE four-wheel-drive system only offered until now for the MINI Countryman is now available on its smaller MINI Clubman sibling.

You can order the ALL4 technology with either the etrol-powered Cooper S model or the diesel-hauled Cooper SD version from April.

Prices start from £24,305.

Go to www.mini.co.uk for more information on this

The ALL4 system should offer more reassuring handling in slippery conditions

Petrol alternative to Fiat 500 to go on sale as 'eco' model

IF YOU'RE NOT convinced about the new diesel version of the Fiat 500 then a new petrol-powered alternative has gone on sale.

The 'Eco' model is based on the existing 1.2-litre model but has start-stop technology, tyres with lower rolling resistance and aerodynamic tweaks. Prices start at £11,865, but you can also get it as a convertible for £14,515.

Citroen DS3 is given

FIVE years after it was originally launched, Citroen's DS3 – now known as just the DS3 – has been given a facelift to keep it looking youthful.

Along with a redesigned front end there is also a lot more in the way of in-car gadgets.

There is the option to have either the hatchback - or the soft top Cabrio model - with the manufacturer's latestPureTech 130 three-cylinder turbo petrol engine.

Expect it to arrive here later this spring (2016).

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10 BMW 520D SE BUSINESS EDITION TOURING AUTO, black, PAS, climate, heated seats, sat nav, leather, high miles, diesel.....**£5,995**

51 BMW 530D SE TOURING AUTO, metallic blue, PAS, E/W, sat nav, Alloys, CD, r/locking, diesel.....**£2,695**

09 VAUXHALL CORSA LIFE 1.2 5spd, 5dr, met black, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, ABS, service history.....**£2,995**

07 FORD FOCUS TITANIUM 1600 5SPD, met silver, PAS, E/W, c/locking, ABS, alloys, lady owner, air con.....**£2,995**

55 RENAULT CLIO 1.4 DYNAMIQUE 3dr, met silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, A/C, ABS, pan roof, 1 lady owner, new shape.....**£2,295**

53 FORD FIESTA ZETEC 3DR 1400cc, 5spd, met silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, ABS, alloys, nice car **£1,695**

53 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0 LIFE 3dr, met silver, PAS, E/W, C/L, CD, 37,000 miles only, low insurance.....**£1,595**

P MERCEDES CLK CONVERTIBLE 230 AUTO, met silver, PAS, E/W, c/locking, A/C, power hood, CD, ABS, alloys, 27,000 miles only, lady owner, Isle of man vehicle.....**£2,695**

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56 RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE 1600 5SPD, met silver, PAS, E/W, c/locking, air con, ABS.....**£2,495**

55 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 CAMPUS SPORT 3DR, met black, PAS, E/W, c/locking, CD, alloys.....**£1,495**

05 VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB 1400cc 5SPD, met silver, PAS, E/W, c/locking, A/C, ABS, alloys, 1 lady owner, service history.....**£1,995**

05 VAUXHALL CORSA 1800cc 5SPD SRI, black, PAS, E/W, c/locking, air con, sat nav, service history.....**£1,695**

55 VAUXHALL ASTRA AUTO 1600cc 5DR, met gold, PAS, E/W, c/locking, air con, ABS, 58,000 miles.....**£2,495**

05 CITROEN C4 VT COUPE 1400cc 5SPD, black, leather, PAS, c/locking, E/W, ABS, alloys.....**£1,495**

52 RENAULT SCENIC 1600cc 5SPD, PAS, E/W, c/locking, ABS, twin sunroof, lots of history, lady owned.....**£1,095**

52 RENAULT SCENIC 1600cc 5spd, PAS, E/W, C/L, S/roof, lots of History, lady owned.....**£1095**

56 SAAB 9-3 1.9 TDI 5spd, met blue, half leather, PAS E/W c/locking, ABS, alloys, e/roof **£2,395**

05 NISSAN MICRA 1.25 3DR, met black, PAS, E/W, c/locking, CD, 1 lady owner, 90,000 miles.....**£1,295**

54 HYUNDAI ELANTRA DIESEL 2.0 HATCHBACK, in met silver, leather, PAS, e/windows, c/locking **£1,295**

53 PEUGEOT 206 SW ESTATE 2.0 5SPD, met blue, half leather, climate control, E/W, c/locking, alloys, CD, drives well.....**£1,195**

03 RENUALT MEGANE HATCH 5DR 1600cc 5SPD, half leather, climate control, alloys, CD.....**£1,295**

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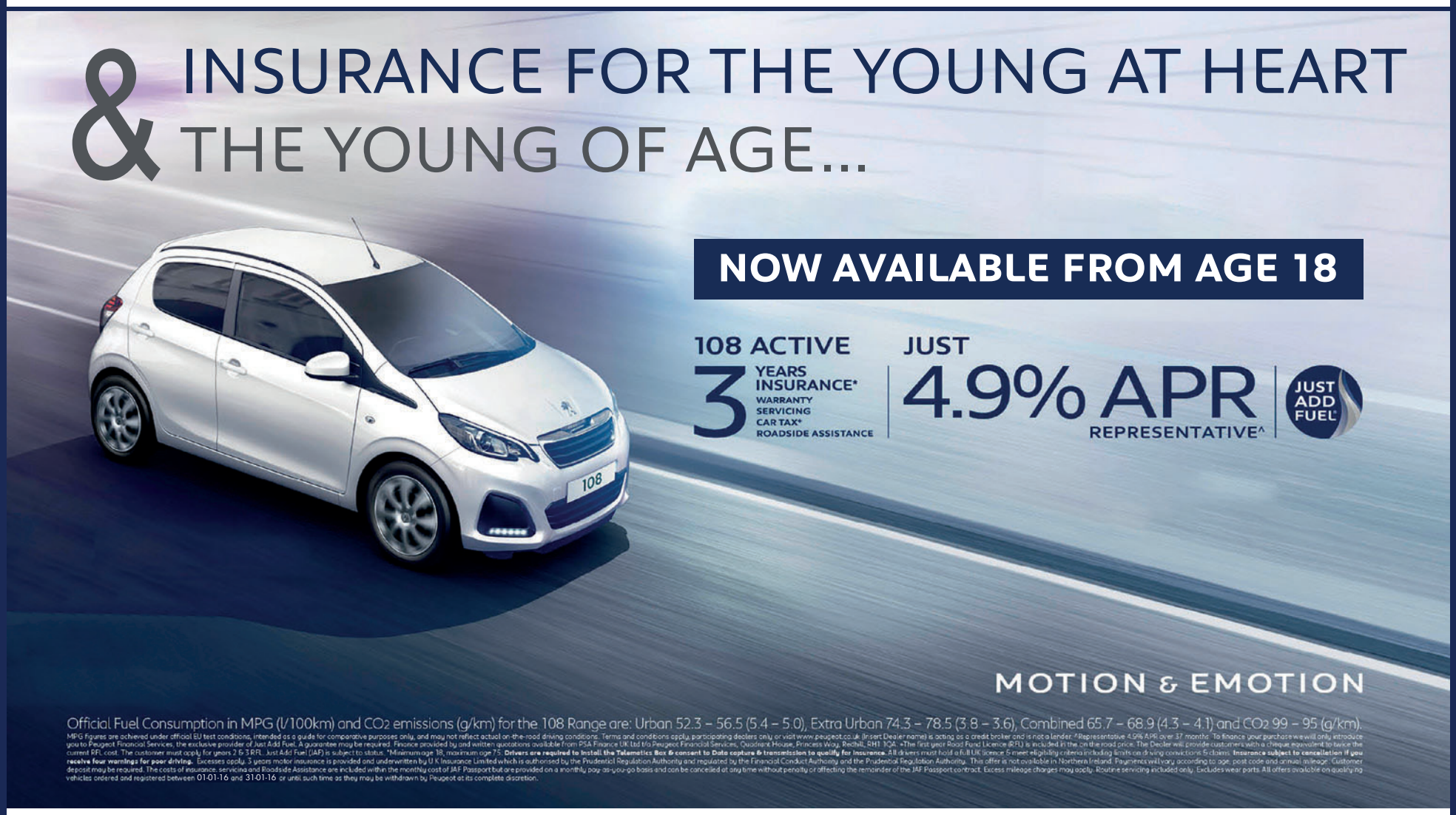

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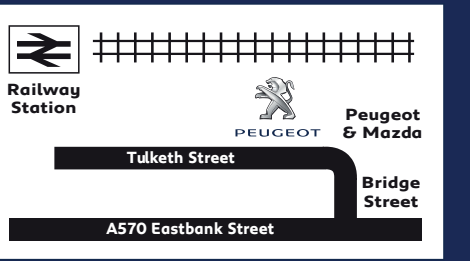

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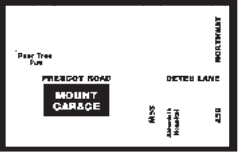

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Linnets return to winning ways

Burscough 2
Brighouse 1

BURSCOUGH returned to winning ways last weekend to further cement their position in the top five of the league table.

The Linnets, who had not picked up three points since December, saw off mid-table side Brighouse Town thanks to a winning goal from centre back Nick Ryan.

The win means Burscough are only three points off third placed Glossop North End and with three games in hand over their rival, boss Mark Beesley will be optimistic about bridging this gap. Burscough opened the scoring against Brighouse Town through Monaghan and the home side went into the break with the one goal advantage.

Brighouse equalised in the second half but Ryan stepped up to clinch all three points with his winning goal.

Burscough's next fixture is this Saturday away at struggling Harrogate Railway Athletic.

Harrogate have only picked up 14 points from 22 games and are positioned in the relegation zone.

Burscough came out on top when the teams met back in September with the Linnets winning 3-2.

Home comforts on way for Skem

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

THE season enters a crucial stage for Skelmersdale United.

Over the next three weeks or so they play four out of the next five Evo-Stik Premier Division matches at Stormy Corner.

And with Skelmersdale's decent home form that could be an important factor before the run-in at the end of the season. At the time of writing they were due to play Ramsbottom United at home last night, followed by a visit from Rushall Olympic on Saturday (30 January).

On Tuesday, February 2 Hyde nip over from east Manchester.

There then follows the one away trip, but it is an interesting one, to play Darlington 1883 on Saturday, February 6.

The former Football League club play their home games at Bishop Auckland, finished off on Saturday, January 13 when Ilkeston play at Stormy Corner.

The Saturday matches are all 3pm kick-offs the midweek games 7.45pm.

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Hawley the difference as striker shows his class

Stourbridge 3
Skelmersdale 1

STOURBRIDGE'S War Memorial Athletic Ground has this season hosted the BBC cameras for an FA Cup tie, the club are on the verge of the FA Trophy quarter-final and are still hot on the trail of a play-off spot in the Evo-Stik Premier Division.

But they weren't given an easy afternoon by a gallant Skelmersdale United side who made them work hard all the way to secure three points.

Already fielding a weakened squad Skelmersdale United manager Tommy Lawson was further frustrated before kick off when midfielder Ged Kinsella failed a pre-match fitness test leaving him without six players who would arguably have started the match, so it was no surprise when Stourbridge gained an early territorial advantage.

The highlights early on saw home number ten Justin Richards put one good opportunity wide and Skem goalkeeper Martin Fearon making a good reaction save from a Matt Dodd snapshot.

This all changed in the 25th minute when Kenny Strickland skilfully sent a dropping ball over the home defence, Max Hazeldine ran onto the ball and with the entire home defence on his tail lifted the ball over advancing goalkeeper Charlie Price to give Skelmersdale the lead.

It could have been 2-0 to Skem seven minutes later but keeper Price dived full-length to his left to finger-tip away a Tyrone Duffus shot.

As it was Skelmersdale held the lead for exactly ten minutes and the equaliser was one of the best goals they will concede all season.

Stourbridge centre-forward Karl Hawley may be 34 years old, but he still retains all the guile that saw him spend fifteen years playing in the Football League for clubs including Preston North End and Notts County and just to prove it, he played a one-two, then inside the penalty area he sent two defenders the wrong way and curled the ball right into the top corner of the net to make it 1-1.

Two minutes later on 37 minutes Hawley's shot was blocked but the ball ran perfectly to strike partner Dodd who had a simple task to put Stourbridge 2-1 up.

Skelmersdale were not done though, and in added time before the interval, Chris Almond set off on a determined run straight up the centre of the pitch, he eventually pushed the ball to Hazeldine and the teenage striker's shot was destined for the bottom corner before Price miraculously got a boot to ball and diverted it for a corner.

Tommy Lawson was forced into a change at the break and introduced seventeen year old Brandon Gaskell, but for a goal-line clearance by Kristian Green he would have equalised in the 54th minute.

When Stourbridge were reduced to ten men by the dismissal of Dodd for a dreadful challenge on Strickland it arguably had a detrimental effect on Skelmersdale because it forced Stourbridge onto the defensive.

But they still countered and defender Dan Scarr had made it 3-1 with a header from a set piece free-kick on 62 minutes.

From that point on it was all Skelmersdale, but alas they had few chances as an entrenched Stourbridge defence held them at arm's length.

Skelmersdale played well, arguably they could have defended better, but in Hazeldine they have a player of clear potential and the spirit they are showing is praiseworthy.

It would be wrong to say that Stourbridge were lucky, they were the best team, but given luck Skelmersdale could have fetched something back with them up the M6, they will play as well against lesser teams in their division and will pick up points and move up the table.

Karl Hawley with his touch of class had won the game for Stourbridge at Skelmersdale; he probably did the same here.

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SKELMERSDALE
Champion
27 January 2016
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12 Noon	Royal Caribbean	Princess Cruises
12.45pm	Princess Cruises	P&O Cruises
1.30pm	MSC Cruises	Norwegian CL
2.15pm	Fred Olsen CL	Celebrity Cruises
3pm	Regent Seven Seas	Regent Seven Seas

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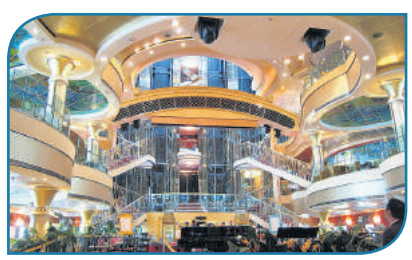

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Steven W

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Steven say this is a "Good business, brilliant people and you certainly get out of it what you put in!"

Rachel T

To any Sales Team a solid support team is crucial. Rachel has been with us now for over 9 years in a Support / order entry role. With her confident, professional and efficient approach she is integral to the smooth running of the office and is a key member of our team.

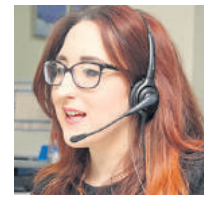
"Being here 9 years and enjoying coming to work says a lot about the role and the work ethic, we have fun but get the work done"

Katy J

Katy joined us from BT Residential, whilst she has only been with us for just under a year, Katy has integrated so very well into our very successful Desk Sales Team. In the short time of being with us she has developed with confidence and ease in her position and is already working on progressing in her role. We are delighted to see her becoming one of our Top Performers, exciting times ahead.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the job so far, challenging at times, always lots to do. Everyone is really supportive and the working atmosphere is upbeat and relaxed"

Rachael W



Rachael joined us from straight from School, choosing the National Apprenticeship Scheme rather than University to start her career. Given her tender age of 18 she has fitted exceptionally well into the team and indeed the business. It's a win win for Rachael, whilst working towards an industry recognised qualification she has also started a career.

"Friendly colleagues, helpful managers, and the most educational experience I have ever had the pleasure of being involved in"

Ian P

Previously working for American Express, Ian has 9 years of experience with the BT Local Business. He has developed his position within our business, starting with Desk Sales, Account Management and now Desk Sales Manager

"BT Local Business has the benefit of a family run company with the backing of one of the UKs largest companies, BT. We work hard and play hard."

THINK YOU COULD BE PART OF OUR SUCCESS?

Call Marie on 01704 898220 or email Marie at marie.macgregor@btlocalbusiness.co.uk

3 GREAT REASONS TO CHOOSE BT LOCAL BUSINESS

Get support from a successful business with a local outlook

We're on your doorstep and can offer a fast response, professional advice and ongoing support.

We're backed by the huge resources of BT Business, which is trusted by over 900,000 small business customers to look after their IT and communication needs, It means we can offer you a choice of the latest technology, innovative solutions and great service, so you get all the benefits of working with BT, but closer to home.

We speak your language

We're running a business just like you; we're facing the same challenges and are under the same pressure. But we also understand the opportunities for your business.

So you'll get all the long-term support, advice and help you need, from people who really know what it takes to make your business succeed.

Get first hand knowledge of the latest products and services

BT Business are networking experts and have invested heavily in a fibre broadband roll-out. This means we can provide you with excellent coverage and cost-effective access options.

Not only that, we're experts in technology too. And we've got the latest information on all the BT Business products and services at our fingertips. We'll regularly review your communications solution to make sure it not only meets the needs of your business now, but also gives the scope and flexibility to adapt to changes in the future.

Chris A
Field Sales Manager

Mike S
Field Sales

DON'T JUST TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT! Here's what one of our customers has to say:

"BT Local Business Merseyside, Chester and North Wales have always made us aware of technology changes and how these might best fit our current and future needs as a growing Academy. I have been dealing with Kate, our Account Manager, for 6 years now and in this time she has been a really valuable point of contact since the initial set up when the Academy moved to a new site in 2009 and a complex installation was required. We always get a prompt response from them and would recommend any local company to consider engaging with them for a professional and efficient service."

Trevor M
Finance and Facilities Manager

Bringing BT closer to your business

WE'RE HERE TO HELP

At your BT Local Business, you'll find a friendly approachable team dedicated to helping your business succeed. We've got everything you need - technical expertise, practical know-how and masses of local knowledge - plus we know from experience what it's like to run your own business.

Get the most from the latest BT communications technology such as Cloud Services. It gives you more flexibility, helping you to stay better connected with your customers as well as making it even easier for new customers to get in touch.

WE CURRENTLY HAVE POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR

DESK SALES, ACCOUNT MANAGERS & APPRENTICES

CALL MARIE NOW on 01704 898220 or email Marie at marie.macgregor@btlocalbusiness.co.uk

Slimming WORLD
touching hearts, changing lives

Slimming World

WEIGHT LOSS GROUPS NATIONWIDE

Address

telephone 0844 897 8000

website www.slimmingworld.com

Champion focus

With more than 13,000 groups held weekly across the UK and Republic of Ireland, Slimming World has been a brand that equals success for 46 years.

The principles behind Slimming World's philosophy are based on a deep understanding of the challenges faced by overweight people - and that those who struggle with weight carry a double burden, the weight itself and a burden of guilt and shame about their weight.

Slimming World's programme integrates practical, up-to-date advice with a highly developed support system.

The West Lancashire team has six consultants, who were all members of Slimming World groups. They have more than 55 years of experience between them and run 14 very successful groups.

The team is one of the most successful in the country and the most successful one in their district. They help and support over 1,700 members on a weekly basis.

The team has won numerous awards, their proudest being a special award for 'Exceptional service to members'.

For decades, Slimming World's Food Optimising programme has shown members that it's possible to lose weight without being on a restrictive and faddy diet and to satisfy their appetite with healthy foods without counting, weighing or measuring everything you eat. Instead, slimmers are encouraged to fill up on everyday foods – which Slimming World calls 'Free Foods' – like fruit and vegetables, pasta, rice, potatoes, lean meat and fish, which are filling yet naturally low in calories.

This year more than ever, if you are serious about losing weight in a great environment that you will enjoy be part of and look forward to go to week after week, why not try Slimming World.

With a streamlined and easier-to-understand plan making healthy eating and losing weight easier than ever, you cannot go wrong.

The company has launched a brand new pack for Slimming World members, which includes everything they need to get started and lose weight straight away. Now more than ever.

live happy!

with Slimming World

MONDAY
ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
Monday 1.00pm
Sue 07817444580
New Group from 4th January

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
Monday 3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 01695 420 305

OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club,
Blaguegate Lane,
Monday 5pm & 7pm
Kathy: 01695 423 658

TUESDAY
OLD SKELMERSDALE
The Wardens Club,
Blaguegate Lane,
Tuesday 9.15 & 11.15am
Kathy: 01695 423 658
Morning Group

WEDNESDAY
BURSCOUGH
Burscough British Legion Club,
Lord Street
Wednesday 5.15 & 7.15pm
Kathy: 01695 423 658

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
Wednesday 9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266
Morning Group

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
Wednesday 5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
Wednesday 3.45, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

THURSDAY
AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
Thursday 9.30am
Zoe: 01695 580 966
Morning Group

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut
(behind Christ Church), Long Lane
Thursday 5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre,
Birleywood
Thursday 9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892
Morning Group

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre,
Birleywood
Thursday 4.30pm & 6.30pm
Jackie: 07888 830892

SATURDAY
ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School, Aughton St,
Ormskirk
8.30am, 10.30am & 12.30pm
Sue: 07817 444580
Morning Group

Visit the website to read Zoë's story...
slimmingworld.com
0844 897 8000

*More people in the UK choose to attend a Slimming World group each week than any other weight loss group.

Slimming WORLD
touching hearts, changing lives

save up to £5 – ask in group for more details

the UK's favourite way to lose weight*

RALPH CLARK FLOORCOVERINGS

Ralph Clark

QUALITY CARPETS, LAMINATES, RUGS & VINYLS

58-60 New Court Way, Ormskirk L39 2YT

telephone 01695 579344

Champion focus

Ralph and Margaret Clark celebrating 32 years

For any business to be trading successfully for 32 years, customers are assured it must be doing something right! And that is certainly the case for Ralph Clark Floorcoverings. This family run business is anything but small. Big on experience, big on service and most of all, big on customer care, Ralph Clark Floorcoverings will always go the extra mile to ensure customers are not only happy but will recommend them and come back again and again.

The business has grown over the years from a carpet and vinyl only specialist to accommodate all manner of floor coverings, from laminates to wood floors and rugs, Ralph Clark Floorcoverings has it all!

This is a family business and with Ralph taking semi retirement soon, it is left to son David to continue and build on the excellent reputation of the store. This simply means that customers stay in the same safe hands they have always dealt with.

As a customer, getting the right advice and most importantly the right fitting service is important when choosing a floor and Ralph Clark offer the very best for any customer on any budget in a friendly and informal way.

32 years after Ralph Clark opened their doors, their loyal customers can certainly vouch for a business with a First Class reliable service at affordable prices. Isn't it time you go see for yourself?

RALPH CLARK FLOORCOVERINGS

Local Family Business Established 32 Years

QUALITY CARPETS, LAMINATES, RUGS AND VINYLS TO SUIT ALL BUDGETS!

HARO Quality Flooring

Laminate Flooring from Germany

Authentic surfaces that are almost indistinguishable from the natural originals

from **£13.95** sq m

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Stainfree Regal Bleach Cleanable Carpet

Colours: Silver, Anthracite, Cashmere & Tapestry Brown

only **£8.95** sq yd

£10.70 sq metre

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HALF PRICE Room Size Remnants

Example: Glenavy Axminster
22'9 x 12' *To order £1272.40*
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14' x 13.1' *To order £744.00*
REMNANT PRICE £355.00

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Victoria Carpets

Select Style Vinyl Clic Flooring

Wood Plank
Colour Golden Oak
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40oz 80% Wool 20% Nylon Twist Pile Carpet

From leading Kidderminster Carpet Factory, selection of colours

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To order: £20.70 sq yd

80% Wool 20% Nylon Designer Stripe Carpet

Beige, Walnut and Rainbow Stripe

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£15.49 sq metre

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telephone 01695 717100

24 hour hotline 07802 296338

website www.a1houses.net

Champion focus

A1 Properties was founded by Ryan and Gaynor Bell in 2002 and have a proven to be winning team, with their Buy to Let property rentals company growing steadily over the last 14 years. The company has built an impressive portfolio of 250 properties between 2002 and 2008 and their lettings side amounts to 150 properties.

The company has always believed that honesty in what it does is paramount ot success and for example, tenants will be safe in the knowledge of renting properties in great condition with a dedicated maintenance workforce.

A1 Properties also help to buy and sell properties and the company always strives for a realistic price so their customers are never disappointed.

Ever careful not to over promise, A1 Properties always intend to deliver in the best and fairest way to all their customers. By doing so the company has weathered the financial storm in 2008 and 2009 and still managed to expand their business when most competitors found it difficult just to hang on.

The company relies on its know-how and experience to make key decisions. For example, in 2008/2009 A1 Properties predicted that the interest rates would not increase until 2016 at the earliest and then only at a very slow and steady rate.

This means that they can plan accordingly and still continue to give their customers complete satisfaction on all fronts.

A1 Properties is a family run, local business. It knows the local area and people well and provides exactly what is needed.

Because of that winning combination and the great relationship with both tenants and investors, the future definitely looks rosy!

If you are looking to rent out or sell a home, or require property management services why not contact A1 Properties right now? You will be glad you did!

A1 properties & investments

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Any Size, Any Area, Any Condition

Probate, Downsize, Repossession!

Whatever your circumstances, we can help with a quick, stress-free sale

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Mossock Hall Golf Club

GOLF CLUB AND FUNCTION SUITE

Liverpool Road, Bickerstaffe L39 0EE

telephone 01695 421717

website www.mossockhallgolfclub.co.uk

Champion focus

Established in 1996 Mossock Hall Golf Club is a par 71 course set in 130 acres of beautiful countryside on the Lancashire/ Merseyside border. It is conveniently located close to the North West's major road networks (just minutes from junction 3 M58) yet it maintains a peaceful tranquillity when out on the course.

Mossock Hall Golf Club can boast that the course is open all year round. This is largely due to the fine planning of the course in the development and construction stages, combined with the investment of a quality drainage system and superb USGA greens. Visitors frequently offer their compliments on the course in general and particularly the quality of the greens.

Mossock Hall Functions

Mossock Hall Golf Club is the perfect venue for your wedding, birthday party, christening or any other celebratory occasion. Offering the very best facilities coupled with courteous and professional staff. There is a choice of function suites including a spacious marquee or the Restaurant room in the 18th Century Clubhouse.

Mossock Hall Lessons

PGA qualified professional Brad Millar Tel: 01695 424969

All ages and abilities catered for, individual or group lessons

Mossock Hall Visitor Golf

From as little as £28.90 per person including bacon barm and coffee on arrival. Societies are welcome any day of the week, including weekends from 1.30pm, with food available ranging from bacon barms to 3 course meals. Although the course is ideal for all abilities and is quite flat there are buggies available to hire at just £20 per round.

You don't need to be a member to enjoy Mossock Hall. Green fees from just £22 during February and March are available to book through the Pro Shop - please call for details and availability.

Spectacle Factory Outlet

OPTICAL LENS SPECIALIST

147 New Court Way, Ormskirk L39 2YT

telephone 01695 580554

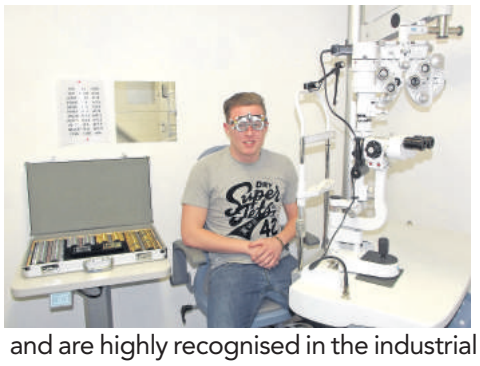
Champion focus

Spectacle Factory Ormskirk, is known in the town, as the "New way to buy glasses" in Ormskirk.

Tim Peterson and Alex Parker started their business nearly five years ago, and together with Cheryl and the team, it has grown by reputation into a very successful Optical Practice with a difference.

Situated in New Court Way Ormskirk, with free parking, they are delighted with the way their customers keep returning again and again. This is down to the excellent choices, prices and most of all, their on-site glazing lab and the professional service that they have to offer.

Tim and Alex have over 30 years experience in the optical trade. Not only do they retail and manufacture glasses for the public, they have a very strong portfolio of opticians that they glaze for



and are highly recognised in the industrial workplace for providing specialist safety spectacles. They are the only glazing lab in UK and Western Europe who were granted the licence to glaze the recognised brand of CAT Safety glasses, and are ISO 9001:2008 accredited.

Initially, the business format was to manufacture glasses for opticians and their corporate clients, but upon moving in to their unit, Tim and Alex proposed a retail factory outlet offering discounted budget to designer frames with high quality lenses and glazing.

Now, they have a very strong team working with them, led by their Senior Lab technician Adam, who has over 12 years optical experience and who has been with them since the launch. They have in the last couple of years been proud to offer apprenticeships to two Ormskirk School leavers, James and Tom, who are now qualified and successfully employed by them.

Cheryl says "One of things that we love about our business, is that customers who came to us in the first year, were so happy with the price and service they received, that they virtually forced us to invest in full sight testing equipment, which in turn, led us to becoming the complete one stop shop."

"Prices are so competitive that we are not surprised. We have been testing nearly a year now, and our new customers say, "that they wished they had found us earlier".

Alex and Tim agree. Their aim was to reach out to people who don't wish to pay high street prices, but who don't want to forego quality, and, at Spectacle Factory outlet they do not need to.

Alex says "We regard ourselves as a happy family and our customers are family members, who often just pop in to say Hello. In our lab, we are happy to go that extra mile, and offer a "make while you wait" service on some prescriptions. This service comes at no extra cost, as customer satisfaction is very important to us".

With prices starting at £14.95 for COMPLETE glasses, and Eye tests free for NHS patients and only £15.00 for private, why not pop in to see them soon? The team would love to meet you.

New private and NHS patients are welcome.

5* FACEBOOK REVIEWS:

facebook

"I highly recommend checking this place out, friendly and helpful staff, great selection of glasses & quick service, got my glasses within a week & I'm super happy with them. 10/10."

"Really lovely friendly service from all staff. A good range of frames for very reasonable prices too And very quick turnaround. Couldn't recommend more highly."

SPECTACLE FACTORY OUTLET

NOW PROVIDING SIGHT TESTS

SUNGLASSES

PRESCRIPTION/DESIGNER

COMPLETE GLASSES

from £14.95

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CAT

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147 New Court Way L39 2YT Ormskirk 01695 580554

Harpers FURNITURE & BEDS

Harpers Furniture & Beds

21/23 MOOR STREET

Ormskirk L39 2AA

telephone 01695 575558

website www.harpersfurnitureandbeds.co.uk

Champion focus

CAN'T FIND WHAT YOUR LOOKING FOR?
WE CAN HAVE IT MADE TO YOUR REQUIREMENTS

No wonder Harpers Furniture and Beds is such a successful business. The company, founded 15 years ago, has left nothing to chance in securing loyal customers. With 37 years of combined furniture experience Harpers Furniture and Beds will look after every need from the moment you step in their showrooms to the moment they deliver to the room of your choice. They will also remove recyclable furniture and beds giving you the perfect experience. With the Price promise - Like for like, Harpers Furniture and Beds go the extra mile and promise they will beat the price of the same item brand new. Excellent customer service comes as standard for Harpers from the team of advisors to their delivery crew ensuring that most customers come back and again and tell their friends! Quality and price are two of the main factors and with prestigious ranges like Sealy as well as a huge range of British made furniture, Harpers has it all at a budget that suits you. Furthermore, the company is happy to make the furniture you have always dreamt off at prices that you will not believe. Part of Harpers service is their Savings club. If you have your eye on a particular item you can pay at your leisure with no constraints. You will reach your goal in no time and with no maximum deposit or term limits, the scheme is ideal for anyone who does not want to deal with credit barriers. Delivery can be a lot faster than you thought and if Harpers have got it in stock, you can expect your item in a matter of days! With the guarantee of a fantastic, mostly British made range, excellent service from the moment you walk in, superfast delivery, best price every time, Harpers Furniture and Beds is your local furniture store if you value advice and experience as opposed to 'one size fits all' stores.

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30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

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MYER 2000 LATEX WITH 2000 POCKET SPRUNG

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FULL ITALIAN LEATHER SUITE
YOUR CHOICE OF COLOUR
3 SEATER - 2 SEATER OR CHAIR
NOW £1,199.99
RRP 1,800

More Than Loft Ladders

CREATING MORE STORAGE IN YOUR HOME

Address

telephone 0800 03 59 880 or 0151 539 4482

website www.morethanloftladders.co.uk

Champion focus

Look up! And get more space at home for just £287 + vat.

We'd all like more room at home. But not everyone can afford to move or extend. So what if there was a way to get extra space for just a few hundred pounds, ready to use in less than a day? In truth, that space is already there. It's just not being used to its full potential.

For most, the loft is a dark and dingy place visited on rare occasions; a precarious scramble across dusty beams with torch in hand, grabbing what's needed then clambering back past boxes filled with long-forgotten belongings. But that dark and dingy place is worth thousands. In fact, it takes up a third of the floorspace in an average home.

Storage space that can be quickly and easily accessed can be really valuable to homeowners who now need the spare bedroom for a new arrival, or who find getting the Christmas tree down each year just a little bit harder. So shouldn't we be making the most of that space over our heads ?

And that's where More Than Loft Ladders (MTLL) comes in. Founded in Bolton seven years ago, MTLL specialises in generating space by making our lofts easily accessible. The latest MTLL franchise to open covers the Liverpool area and is run by skilled local, Mark Pennington, who says the company's no-frills approach is what most people are looking for.

"We're not selling £15,000 loft conversions," says Mark. "This is a low-cost and simple solution that's affordable to most, and certainly more cost effective than locking your possessions away in a remote warehouse. For just £287 + vat you can get a ladder that slides easily up and down, as well as a proper light and some boarding to make the space safe and secure. For a little extra you can get a draft proof hatch too."

The price customers are quoted is the price they will pay, with no additional call out charges. Mark provides a free guarantee on all parts and labour and the quality of the work is monitored independently by the Guild of Master Craftsmen. Already a trusted name in the north west, over 2500 homeowners have enjoyed the benefits we offer, with more having the work carried out every day.

There are a range of packages available to suit all pockets – so whether you just want a ladder installing or you want ladder, boarding and light, call More Than Loft Ladders now for a free survey and quotation with no obligation.

Call 0800 03 59 880 or visit the website at www.morethanloftladders.co.uk

Here's a great way to make more storage space...

ASK ABOUT OUR FREE LIGHTING UPGRADES

Install a loft ladder and make more use of your loft!

Loft ladder, Light & Switch plus 50 sqft of flooring from as little as £287+VAT which includes FREE fitting in less than a day.

Over 1500 people have chosen us to fit their loft ladder, this is because we offer:

- A FREE home visit
- A FREE written quotation
- Fully guaranteed
- A large selection of ladders

Call us now on: 0800 03 59 880 or 0151 539 4482

www.morethanloftladders.co.uk

more loft than ladders™

"cost effective space"

West Lancs Butchers

WHOLESALE AND CATERING BUTCHER

Unit 2 Holland Business Park, Spa Lane, Lathom L40 6LN

telephone 01695 732666

website www.westlancsbutchers.co.uk

Champion focus

OPENING SOON OUR NEW BRANCH SPRING 2016

Coffee shop, Water garden centres, Farm Shop, Alpacas and animals...
All within easy reach of West Lancashire Residents

West Lancs butchers are a family run butchers offering outstanding service and quality fresh British meat to many restaurants, hotels, cafes, care homes, schools, bistros. We have a small retail aspect to our business and you can shop with our free membership scheme.

The business was created in 2011 by two brothers Michael and Lee Parker and Mearl Kain with over 20 years butchers experience each.

The company's mission is to deliver fresh quality meat to all our customers no matter how large or small at the best possible price. Working with individuals to suit specific requirements and needs, West Lancs Butchers' success lies in providing the highest standard in service and products.

The company uses 'red tractor poultry' and 'eblex' quality British meat, so that the best quality meat is sourced at all times and consistently. The excellent traceability policy in place means that West Lancs Butchers know all their products from farm gate to the customer.

This family run business works together with both the F.S.A and West Lancs council ensuring that the business is run efficiently and correctly. Thanks to all the measures in place, the business has gone from strength to strength and has dramatically grown since opening in 2011. In 2012, the national newspaper Daily Mirror included the company in their "Best of British" good food guide. A great accolade that testifies to West Lancs butchers success and reputation.

With a large number of repeat customers from Ormskirk, Skelmersdale, Burscough, Southport, Wigan, Liverpool, Manchester, up to the Lake district and down to Cheshire, some of the local companies the company is proud to work with are West Tower, Spiga restaurant, Deli Sabrosa, Infusions bistro, Lancashire Manor Hotel, Blue Mallard, Spinney Care Home, Holland Moor primary school, Holland Hall hotel & restaurant, Fat Bull restaurant chain, Piri Piri restaurant, Fat Olives (Wigan), K's Bar (Wigan), Mossok Hall Golf Club, The Great Moghull (Maghull), Farmers Arms, Volare, to name but a few....

West Lancs Butchers are proud to be local and are involved in local charities and events. Ultimately theirs is a business that values quality of service, products and loyalty. So if you are looking for a high class quality family run butcher to work with you and provide your business or home with a quality and service second to none get in touch.

West Lancs. BUTCHERS

WHOLESALE & CATERING

WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON QUALITY OR PRICE!

Calling all restaurants, hotels, cafés, bistros, schools, golf clubs and care homes

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£4.80 kg	£22 APPROX 26 FILLETS	£3.30	£3.30	£6.00

Call today and join the best family run butchers in the north!

Call today for your FREE TRIAL - FREE DELIVERY

OPENING HOURS:
Monday to Friday 9am - 4.30pm
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a cut above the rest

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Champion

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SOOTY'S PLANTS

Sooty's Plants

GARDEN CENTRE

Southport New Road, Tarleton PR4 6HX

telephone 01772 816901

website www.sootysplants.com

Champion focus

ALL YEAR ROUND OPENING FOR SOOTY'S PLANTS

You can now visit your favourite Garden Centre all year round because throughout 2016, Sooty's Plants have changed their usual opening days of 9 months a year, to 12 months a year, 7 days a week.

The massive refurbishment and expansion throughout 2015, together with the successful introduction of Sweep's Cafe to the centre has meant that demand in Sooty's has been immense.

Therefore, the natural thing to do was to give the customers what they wanted for 2016. A top quality garden centre with second to none stock, whenever they wanted it.

As a result, Sooty's have become a destination garden centre and are underway preparing for Spring with a stunning selection of plants and stocking up their shelves with a vast array of seasonal products.

Throughout 2015 the team have welcomed a lot of new faces to Sooty's and developed new relationships with these customers while at the same time, still maintaining their good reputation with all their regulars. "We still see all the familiar faces and believe that what makes these customers return time and time again is the knowledge of our friendly team," said owner Mandy Bowers. "Nothing is too much trouble and our staff are always available for advice on planting and nurturing the right blooms for our customer's gardens."

Towards the end of the year last year, Sooty's added to an already successful 2015 and introduced a new addition to the business – Sweep's Cafe.

With it's name chosen by Sooty's customers themselves, the cafe boasts a lovely menu which ranges from lite bites, a children's menu, hearty breakfasts and daily lunch specials including healthy options.

Afternoon teas have recently been added to the menu with speciality coffees and teas available also.

Sweep's Cafe in itself is the perfect meeting point for friends and family to come and enjoy each others company in wonderful surroundings.

Proving a big hit lately is the special Sunday Roast and booking is advised for this on the Cafe's own number - tel 01772 812540.

The team are looking forward to a really successful year ahead and with the extra opening months are excited to see what 2016 holds for the business.

Contact Sooty's Plants on 01772 816901 or Sweep's Cafe on 01772 812540

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SWEEP'S CAFE

10% OFF

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including existing offers

Wed 27th - Sun 31st January. Offer excludes Sweeps Café.

Large Cyclamen

£4.99

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Tel: 01772 816901

www.sootysplants.co.uk

JANUARY SPECIALS

Served 9am - 12pm

Sweeps Special Breakfast

£1.95

ROAST DINNER

Large £7.50

Small £5.45

OPENING TIMES:
Monday to Saturday 9am - 5pm
Sunday & Bank Holidays 10am - 4pm

Book or Reserve on

01772 812540

Inside Sooty's Plants
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Tel: 01772 816901